



US010221952B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Yoo et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,221,952 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 5, 2019**

(54) **DISH WASHING MACHINE**
(71) Applicant: **SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.**, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do (KR)
(72) Inventors: **Soo Hyung Yoo**, Incheon (KR); **Seung Gee Hong**, Suwon-si (KR); **Chan Young Park**, Suwon-si (KR)

(73) Assignee: **SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.**, Suwon-si (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 556 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/584,661**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 29, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0182099 A1 Jul. 2, 2015

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Dec. 31, 2013 (KR) 10-2013-0169377
Jul. 25, 2014 (KR) 10-2014-0094605

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47L 15/42 (2006.01)
F16K 11/085 (2006.01)
(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **F16K 11/0856** (2013.01); **A47L 15/16** (2013.01); **A47L 15/4221** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A47L 15/4282
See application file for complete search history.

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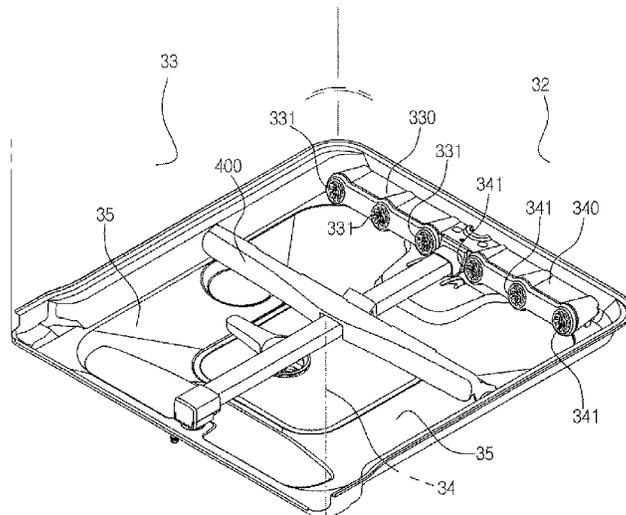
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Primary Examiner — Jason Y Ko
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Staas & Halsey LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A dish washing machine includes a plurality of spray nozzles to spray wash water, a sump to store wash water, a pump to pump wash water stored in the sump, and a distribution device to distribute wash water pumped by the pump into the plurality of spray nozzles. The distribution device includes a cylindrical housing having an inlet formed in one axial end portion thereof and a plurality of outlets that are arranged in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing in an axial direction and connected to the plurality of spray nozzles, an opening/closing member rotatably disposed within the cylindrical housing to open and close the plurality of outlets, and a motor to rotate the opening/closing member. Wash water may be independently sprayed from a plurality of nozzles, a wash tank may be dividedly washed, and loss of pressure of wash water may be reduced, thereby increasing washability.

32 Claims, 56 Drawing Sheets



(51)	Int. Cl. <i>F16K 11/076</i> (2006.01) <i>A47L 15/16</i> (2006.01)	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																					
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FIG. 1

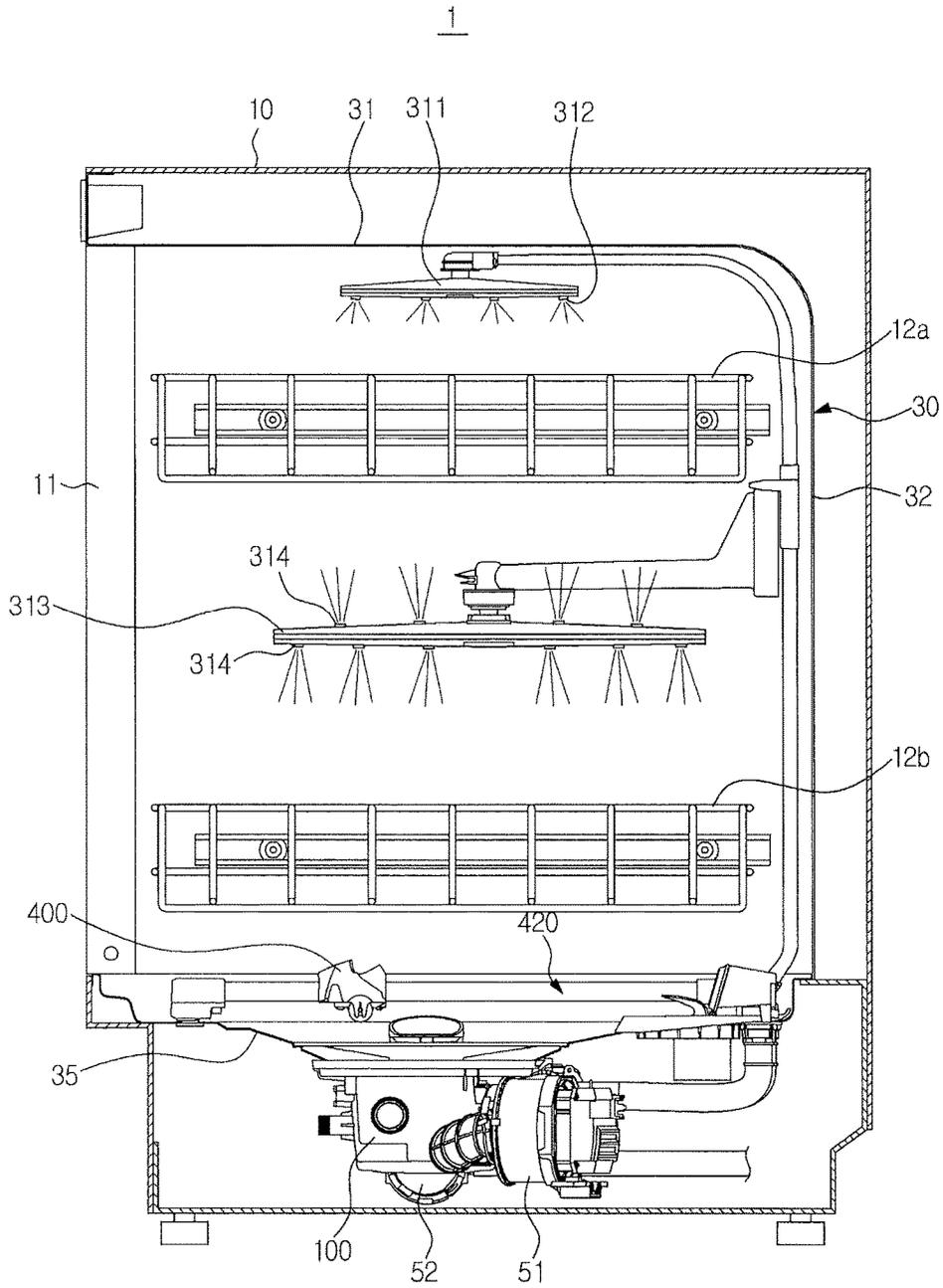


FIG. 2

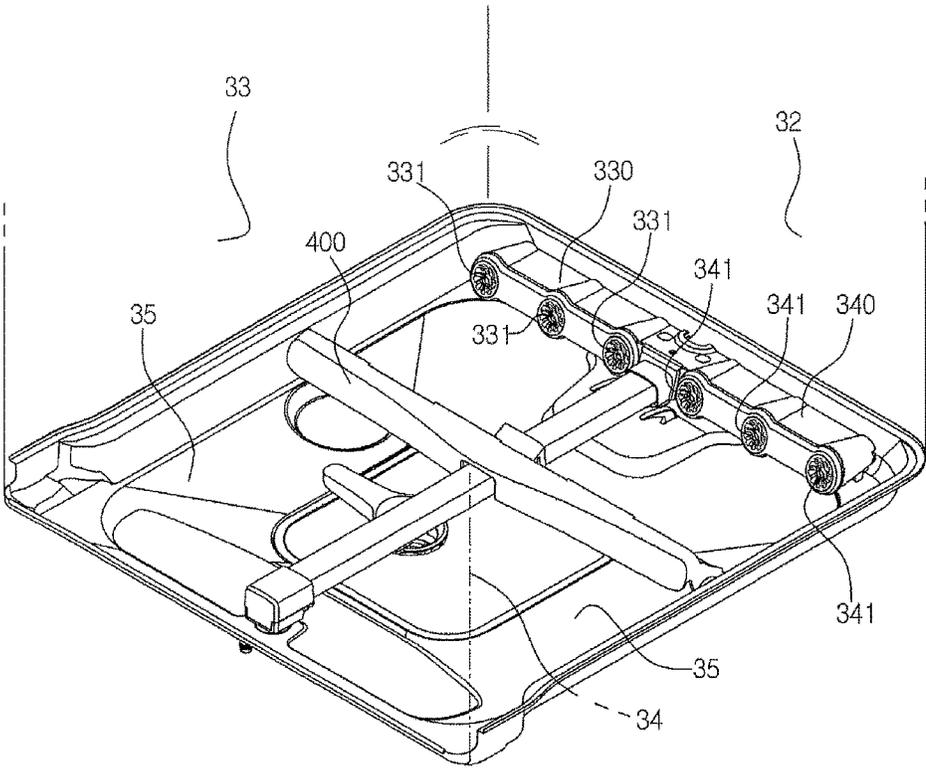


FIG. 3

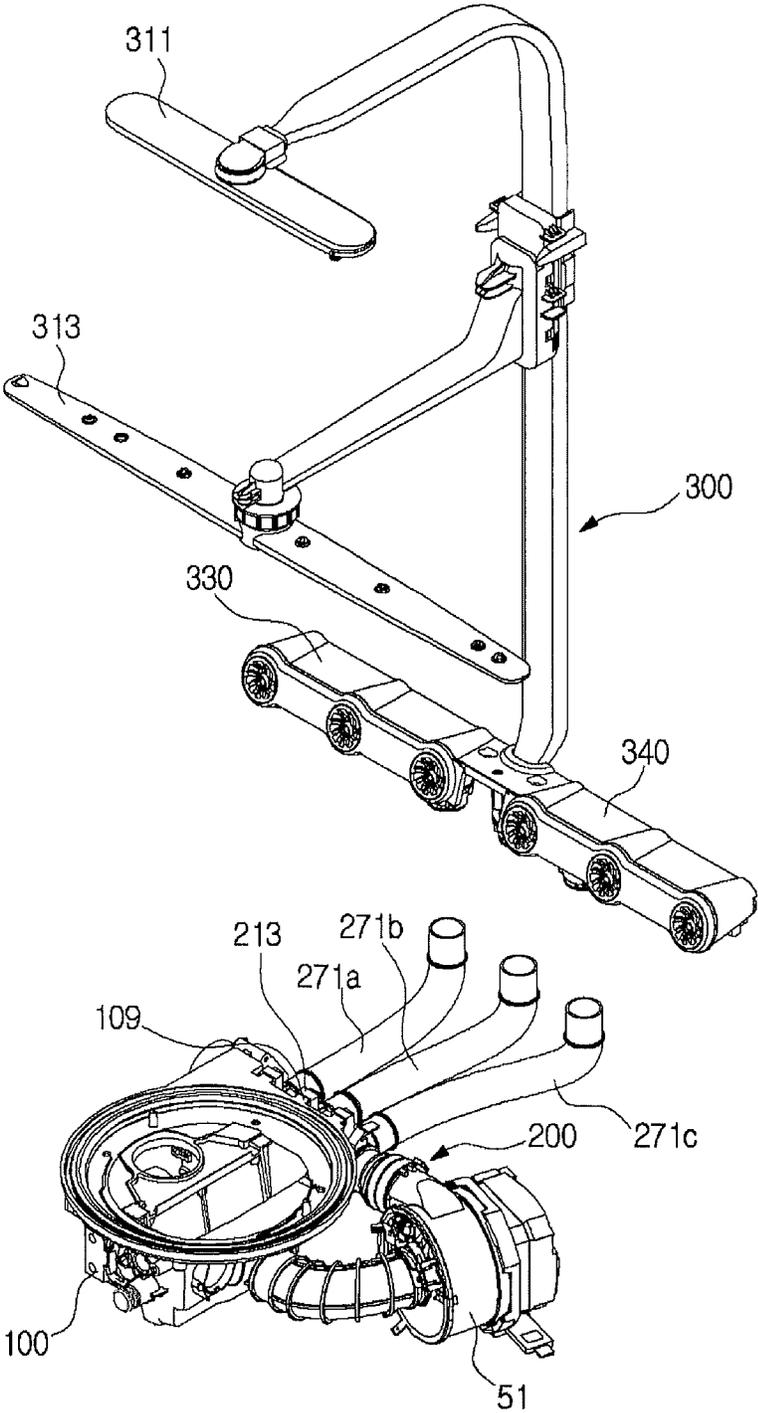


FIG. 4

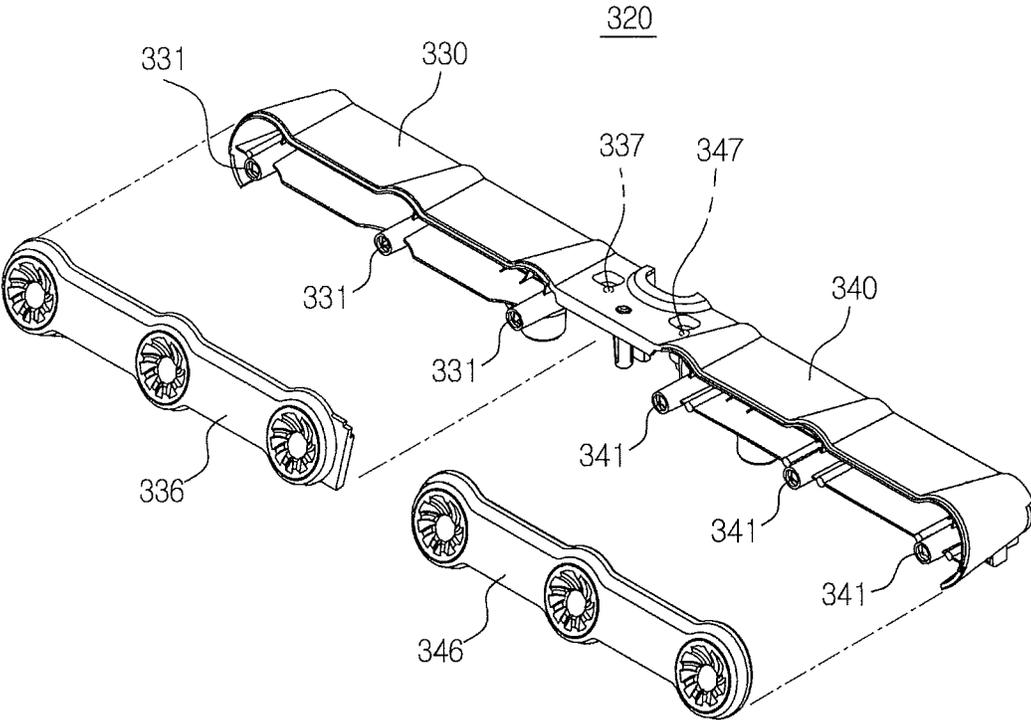


FIG. 5

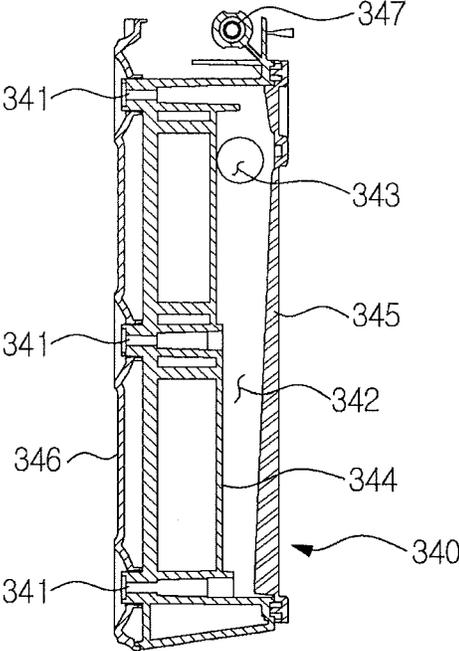
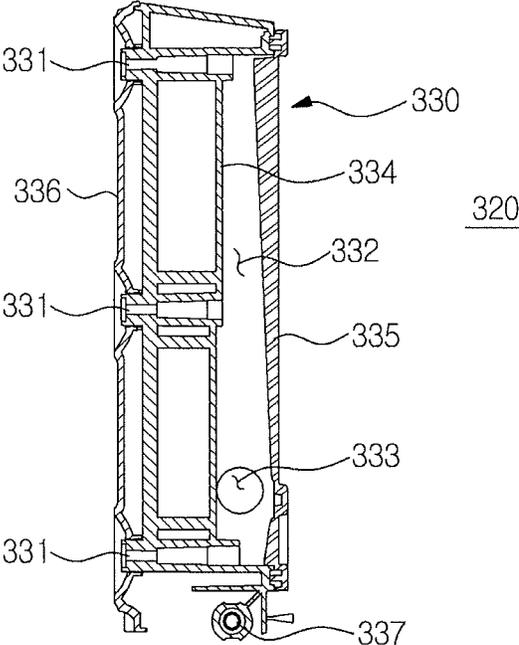


FIG. 6

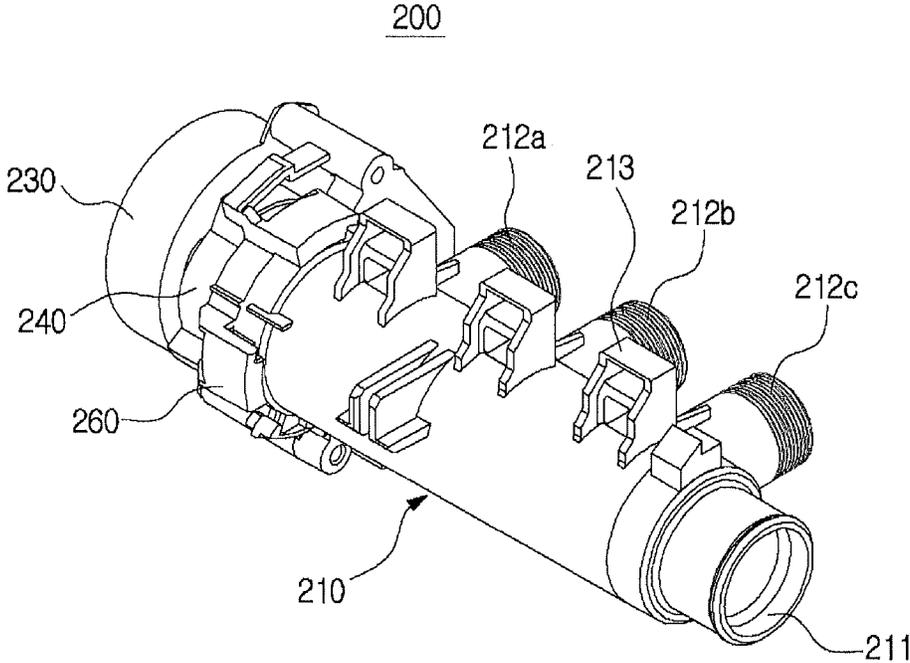


FIG. 7

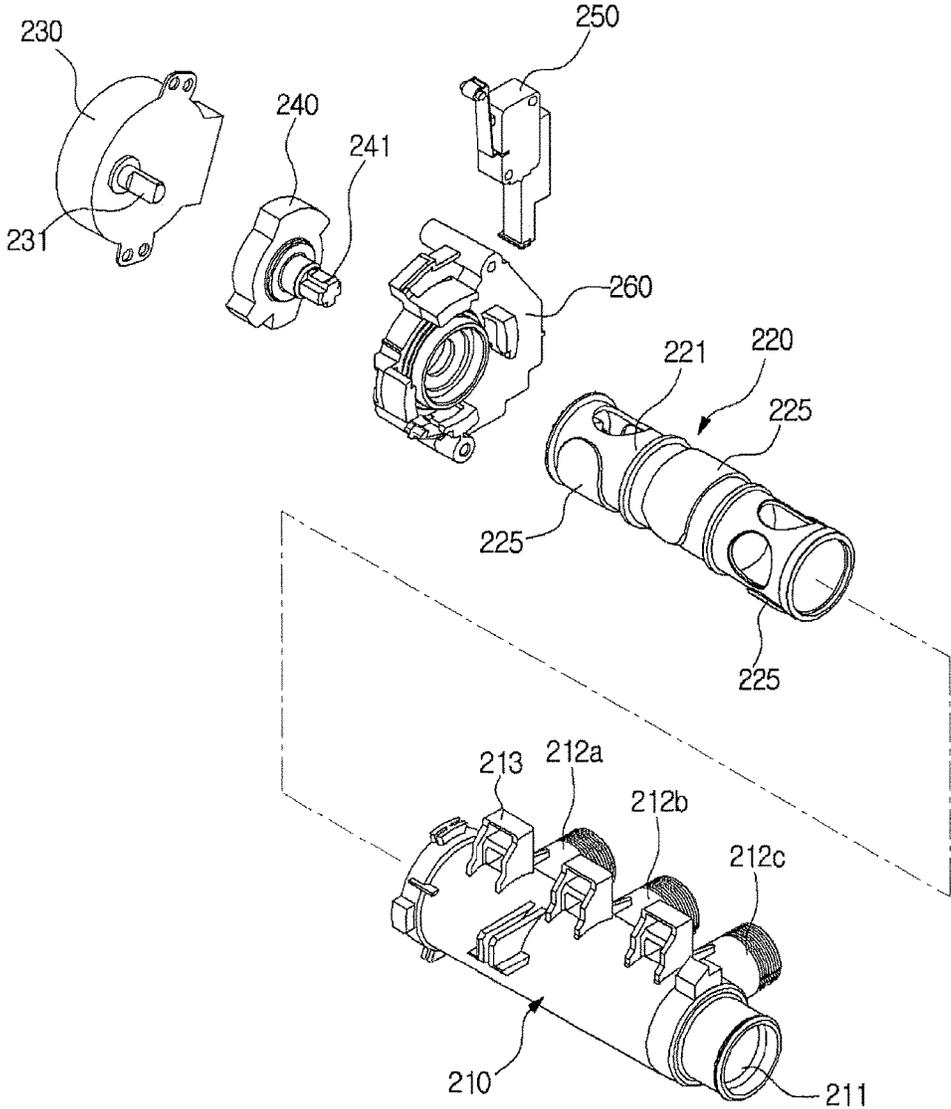


FIG. 8

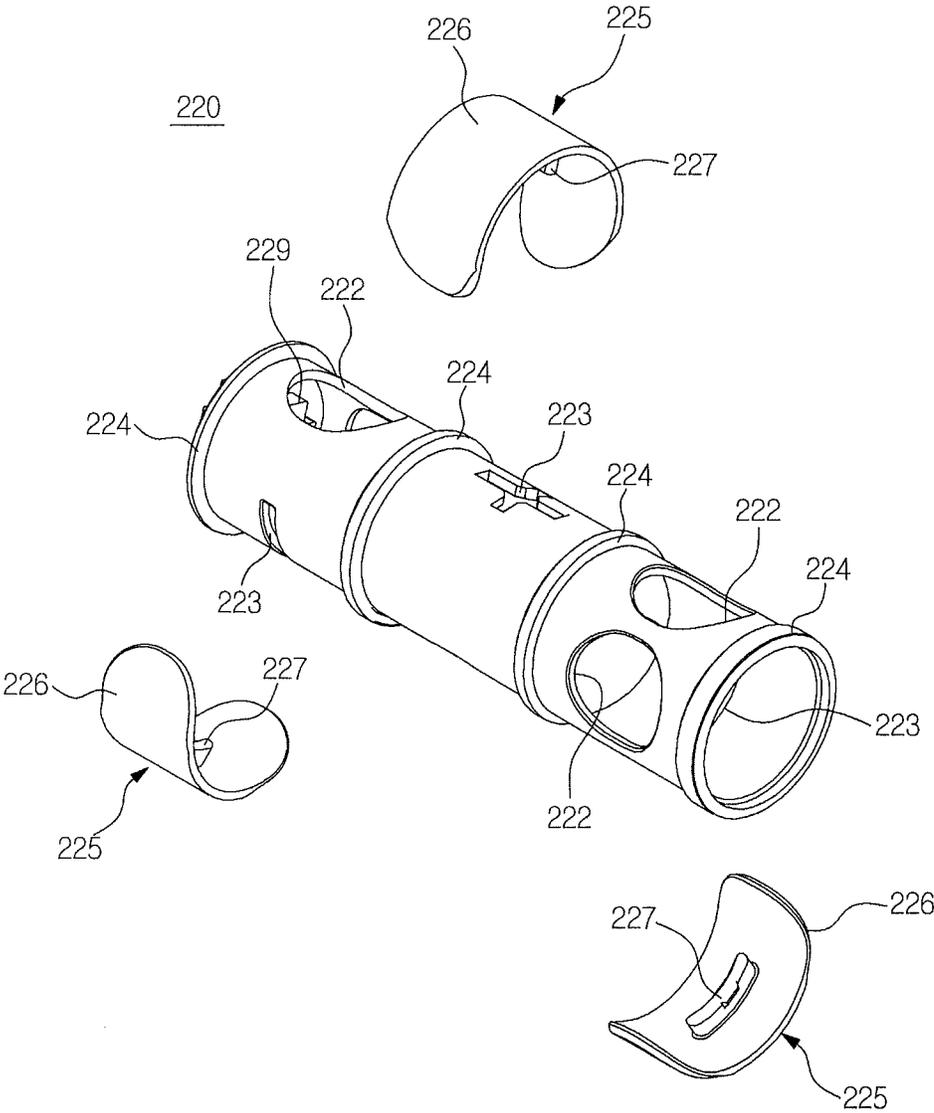


FIG. 9

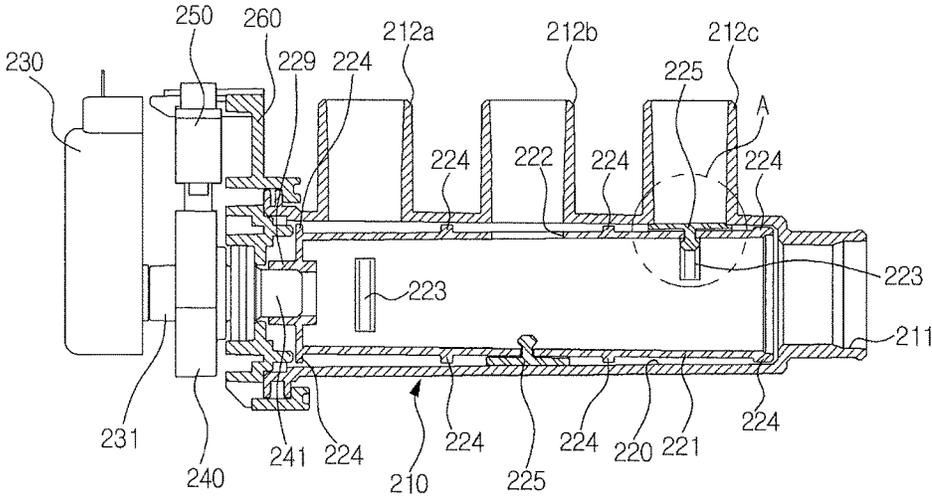


FIG. 10

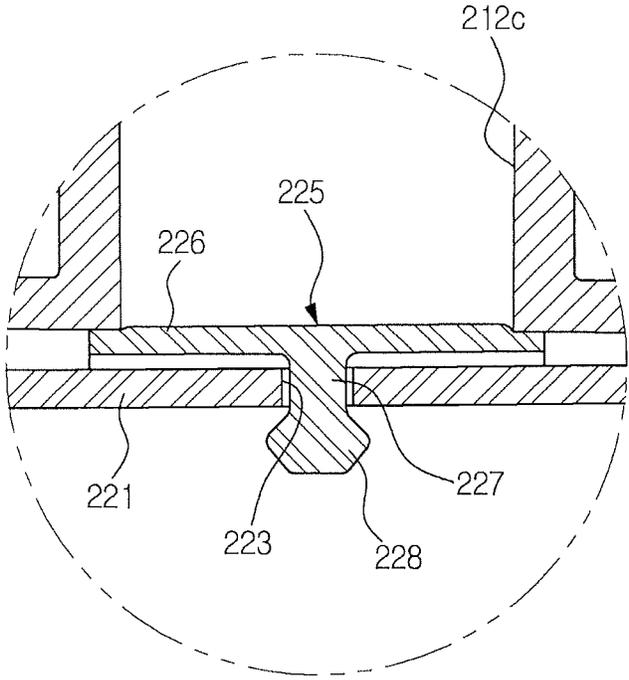


FIG. 11

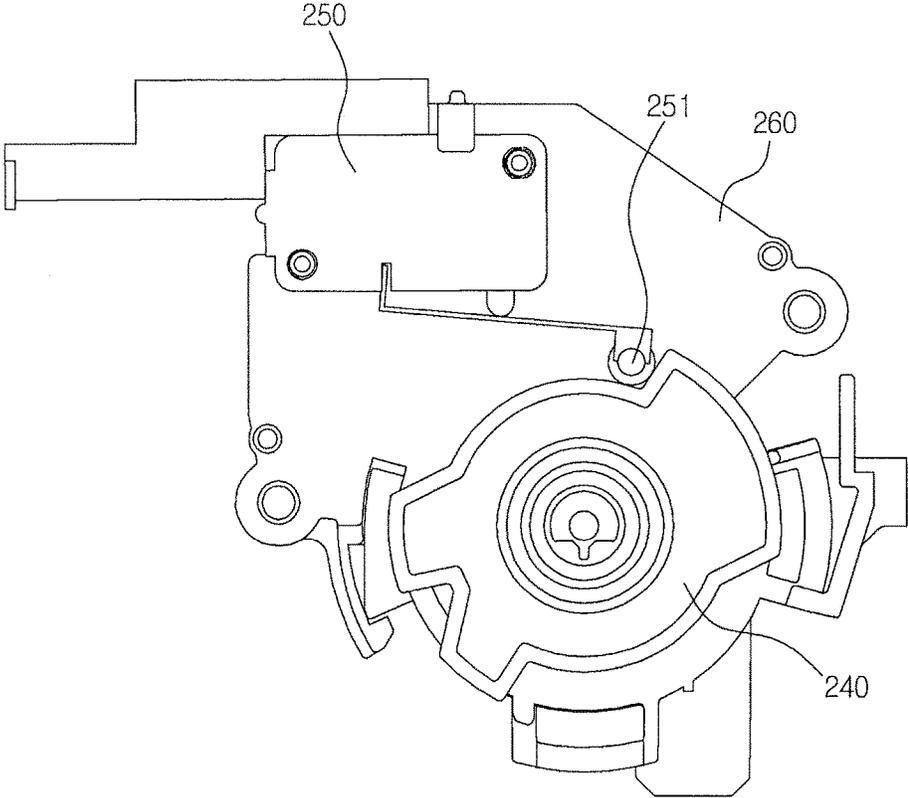


FIG. 12

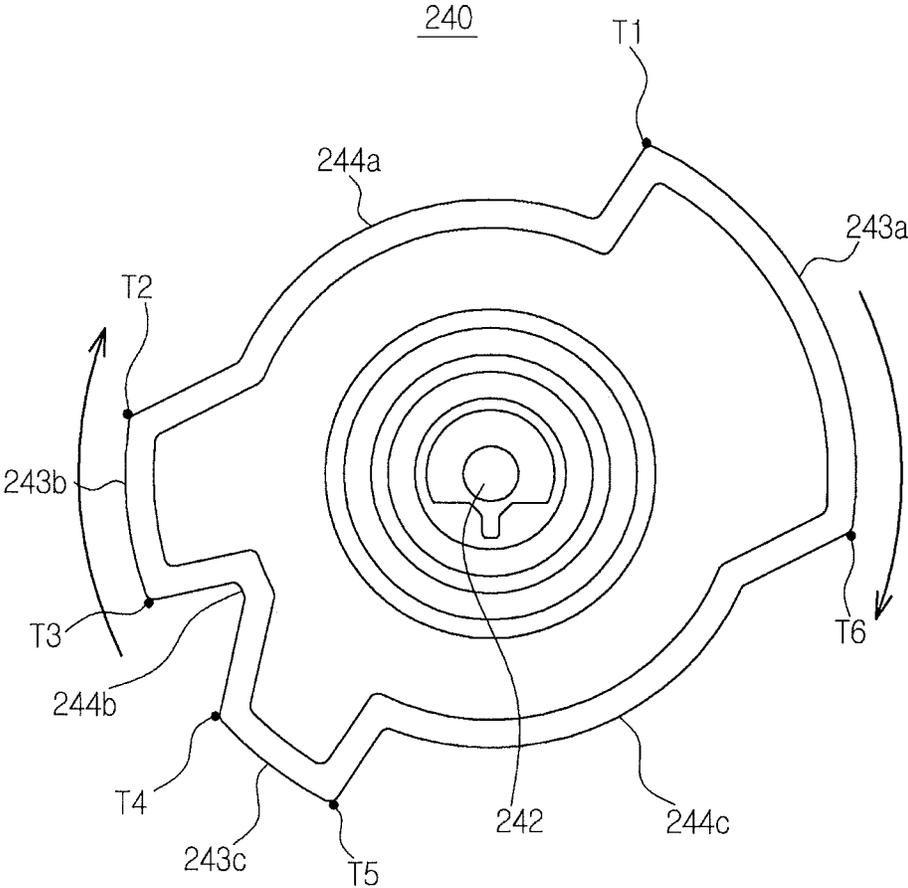


FIG. 13

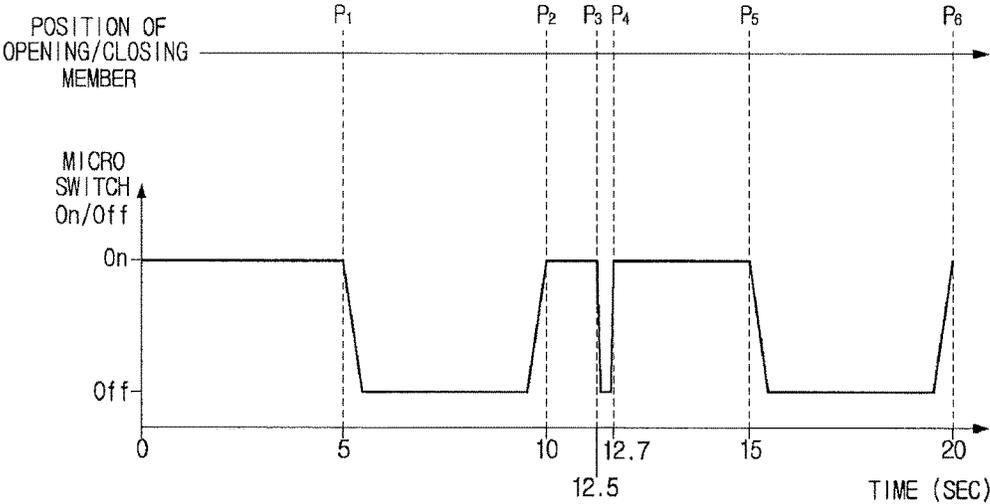


FIG. 14

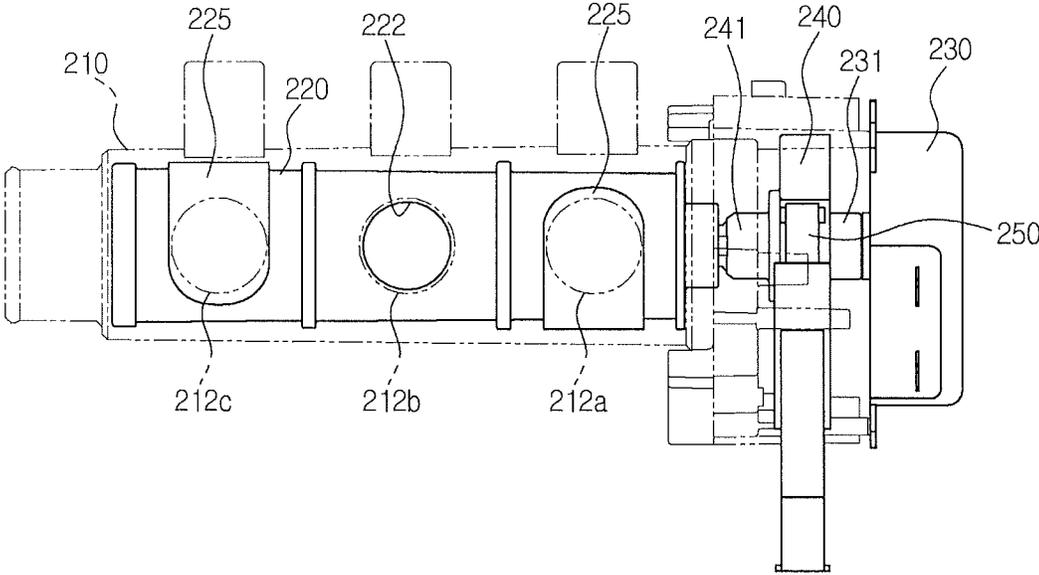


FIG. 15

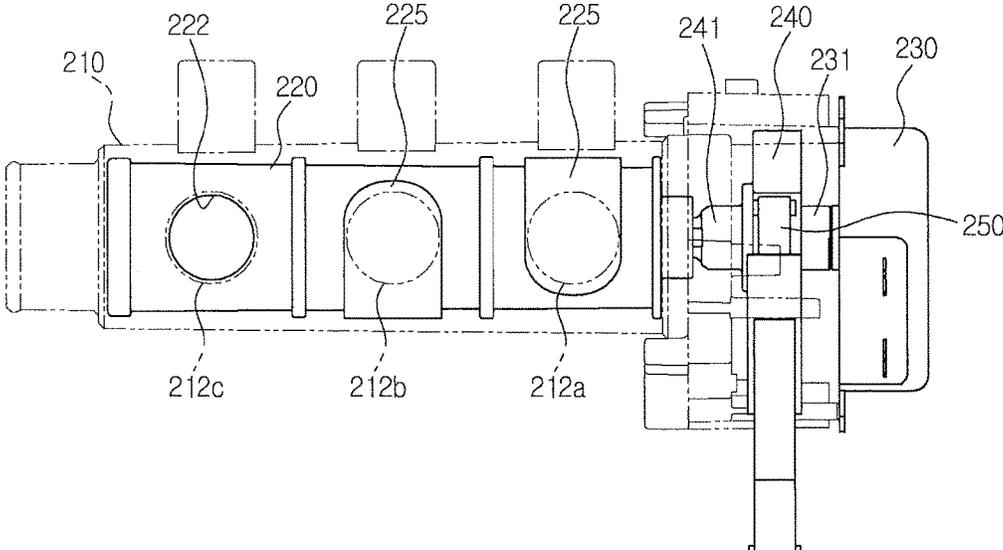


FIG. 16

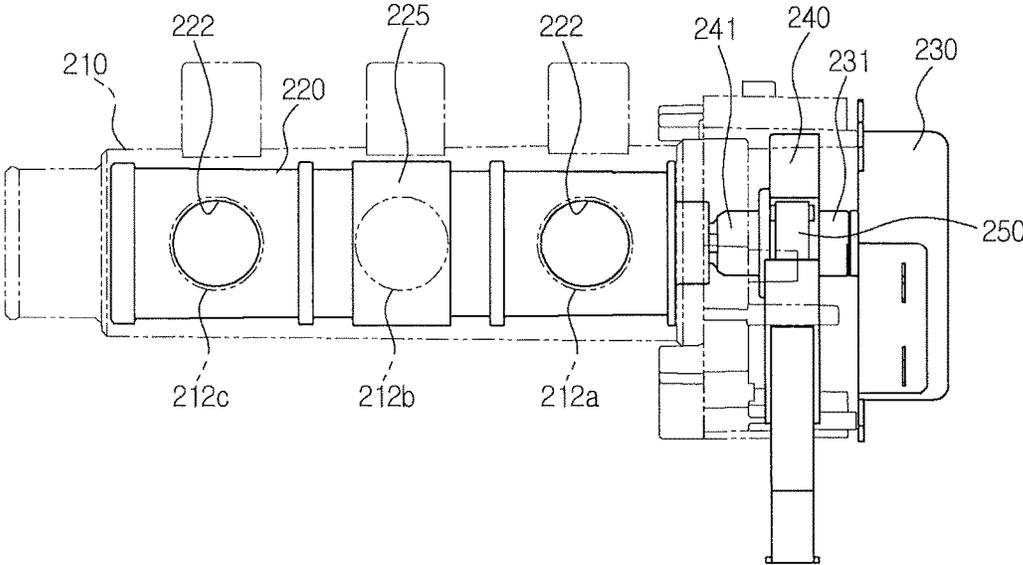


FIG. 17

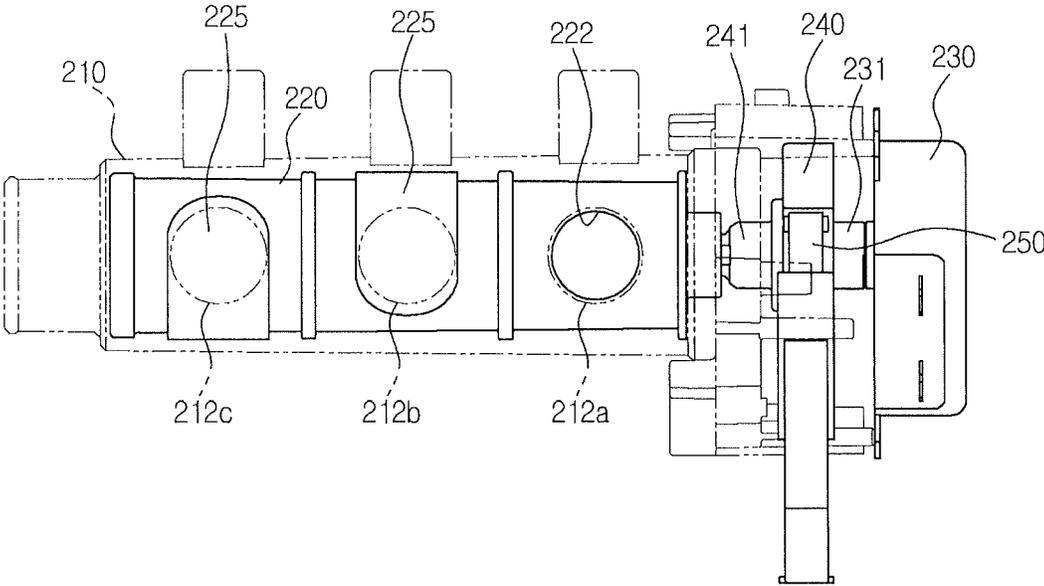


FIG. 18

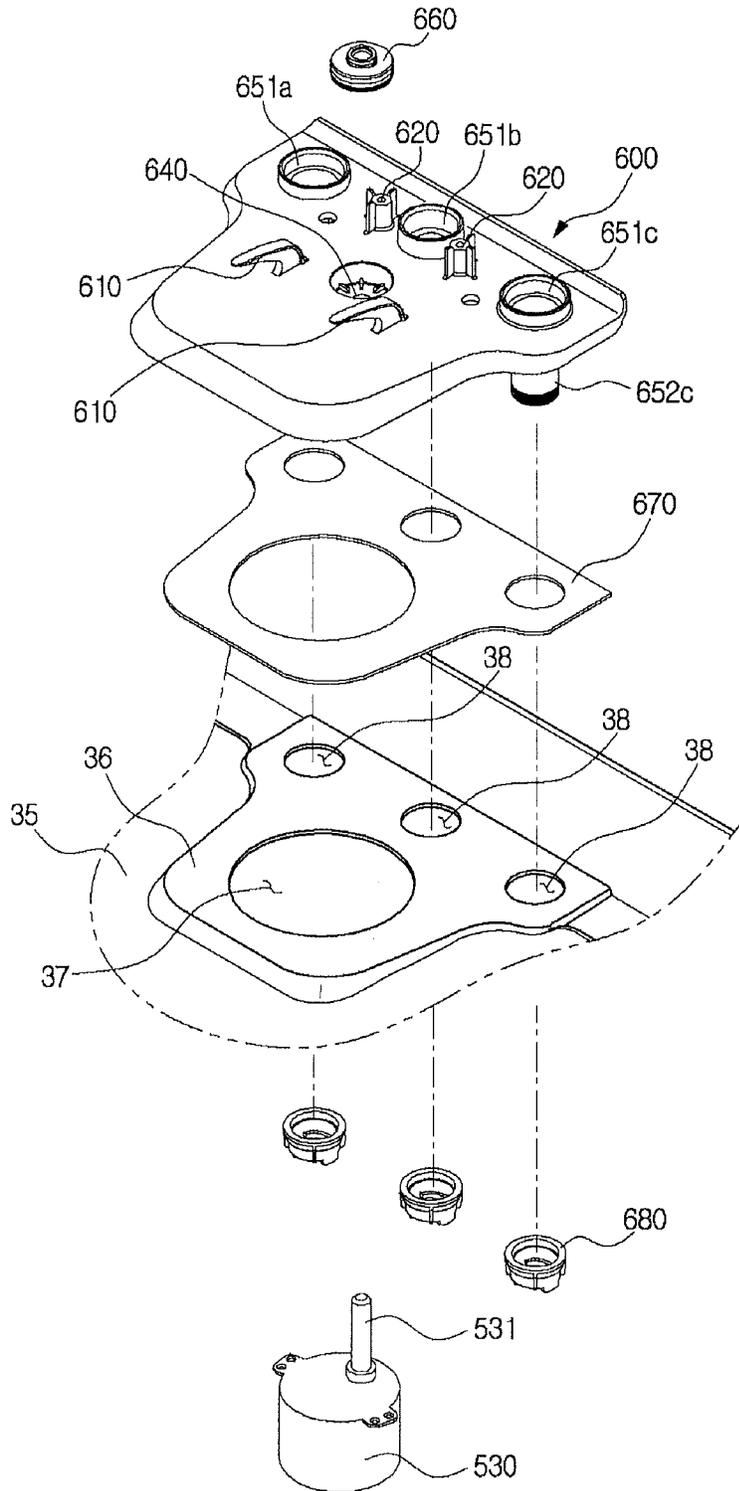


FIG. 19

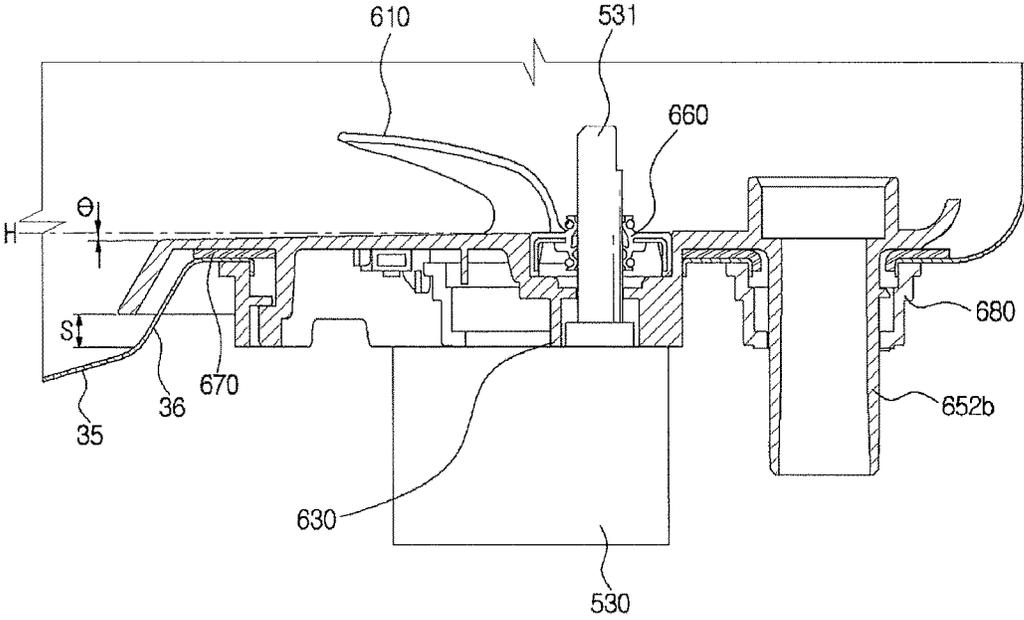


FIG. 20

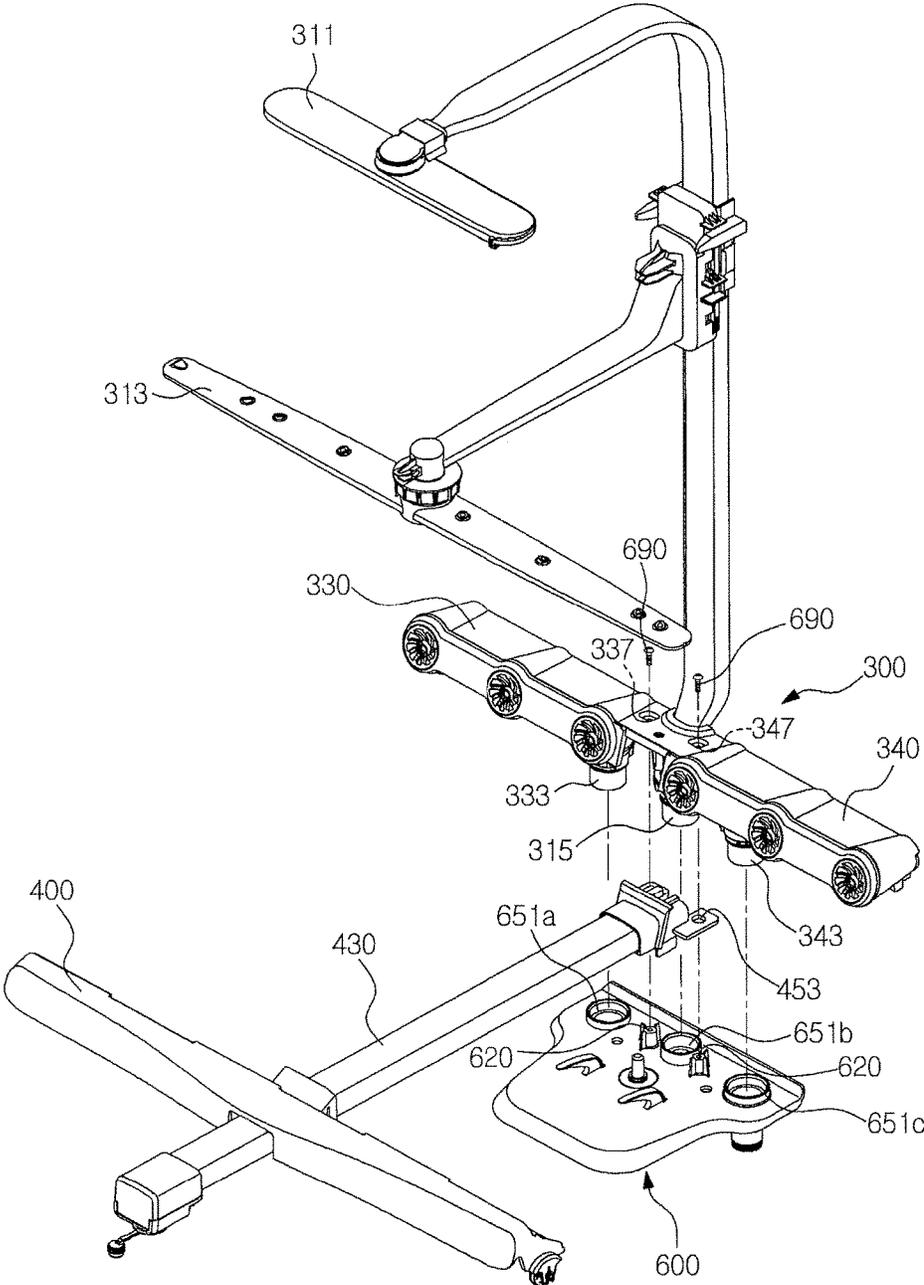


FIG. 21

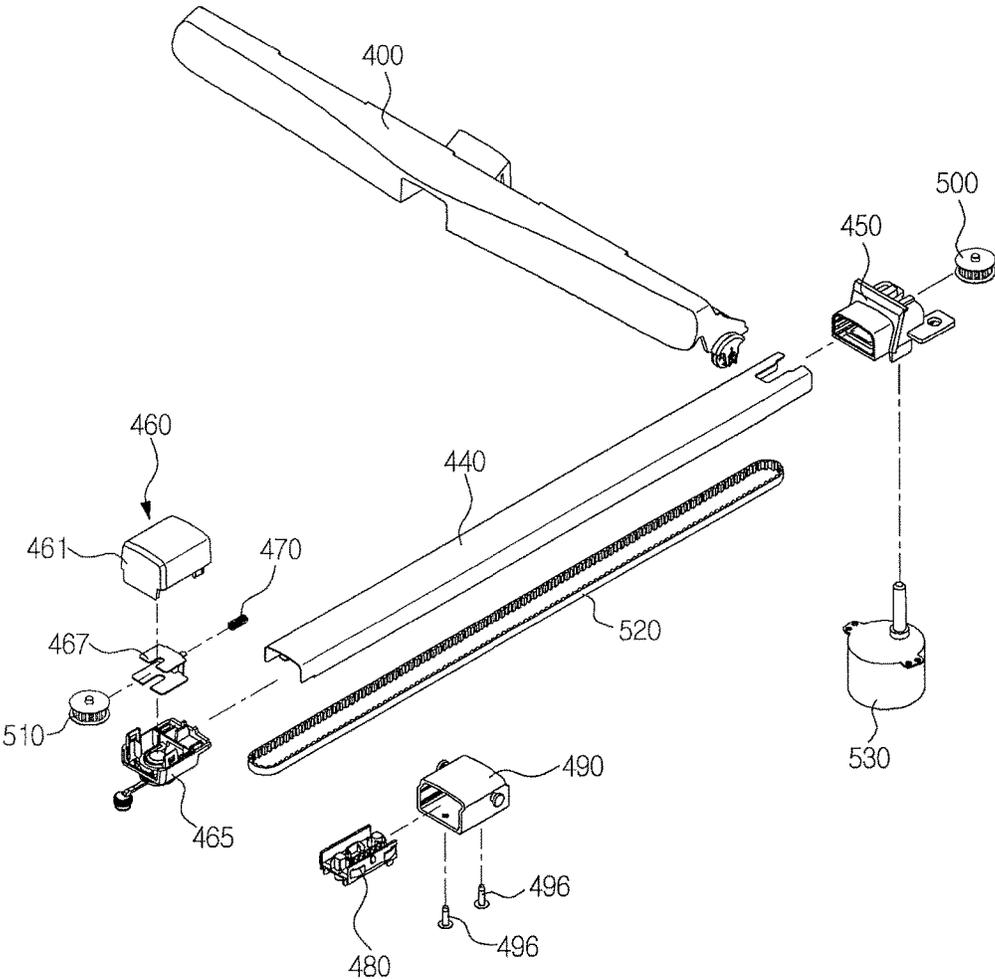


FIG. 22

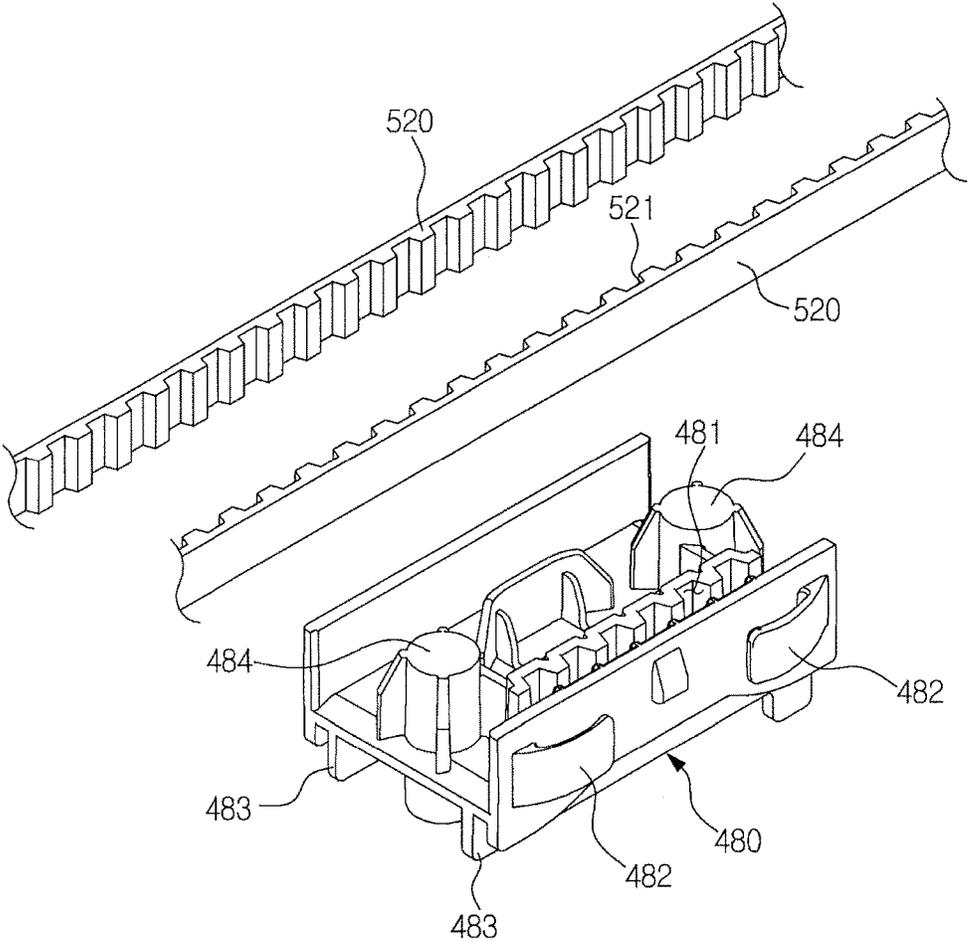


FIG. 23

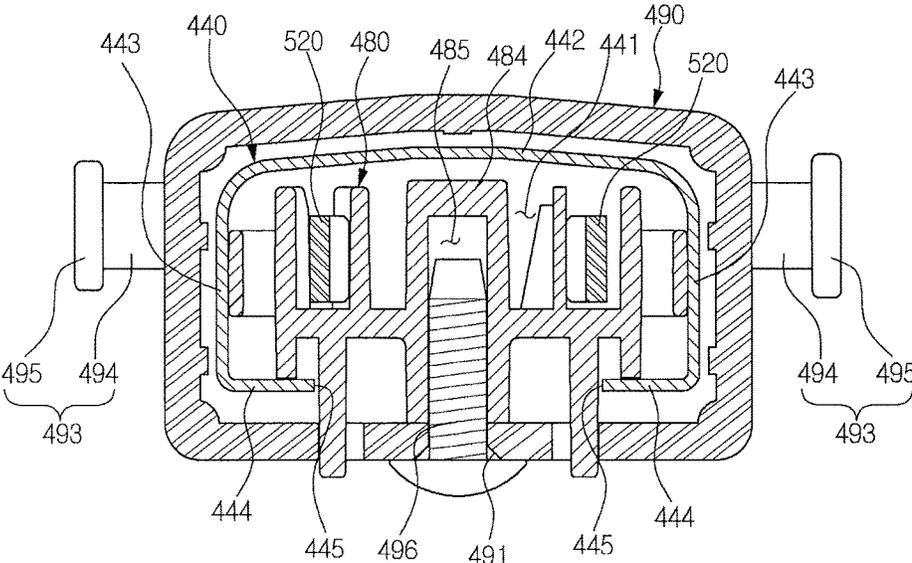


FIG. 24

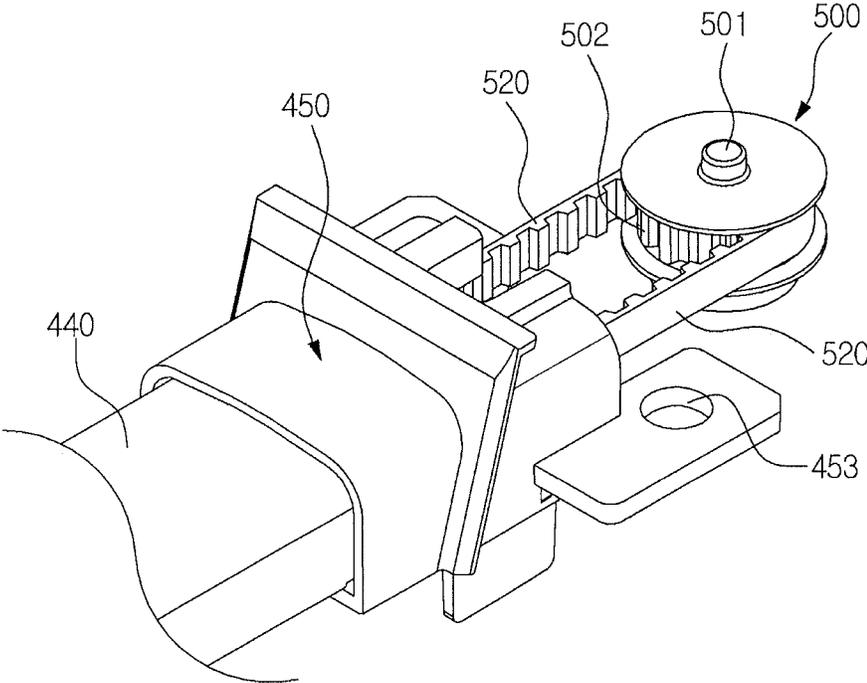


FIG. 25

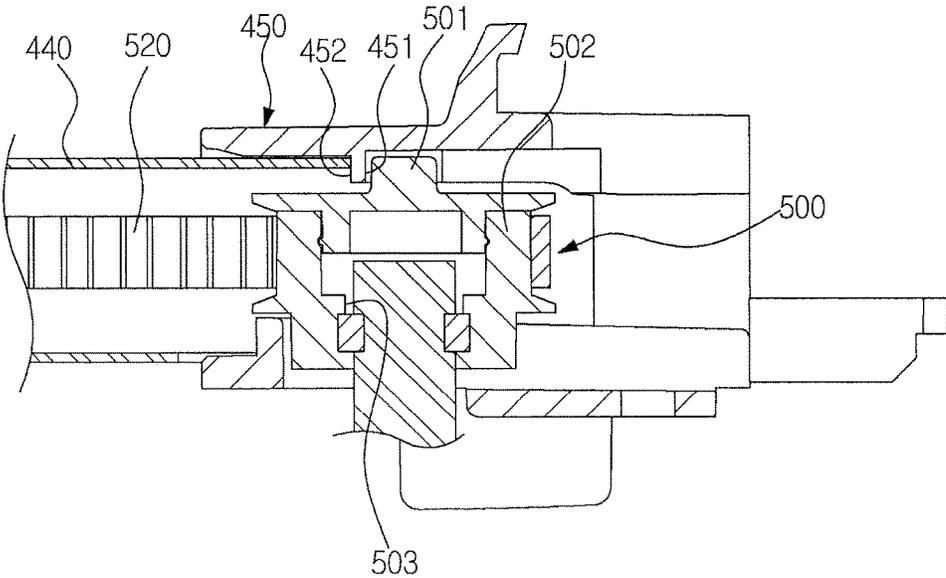


FIG. 26

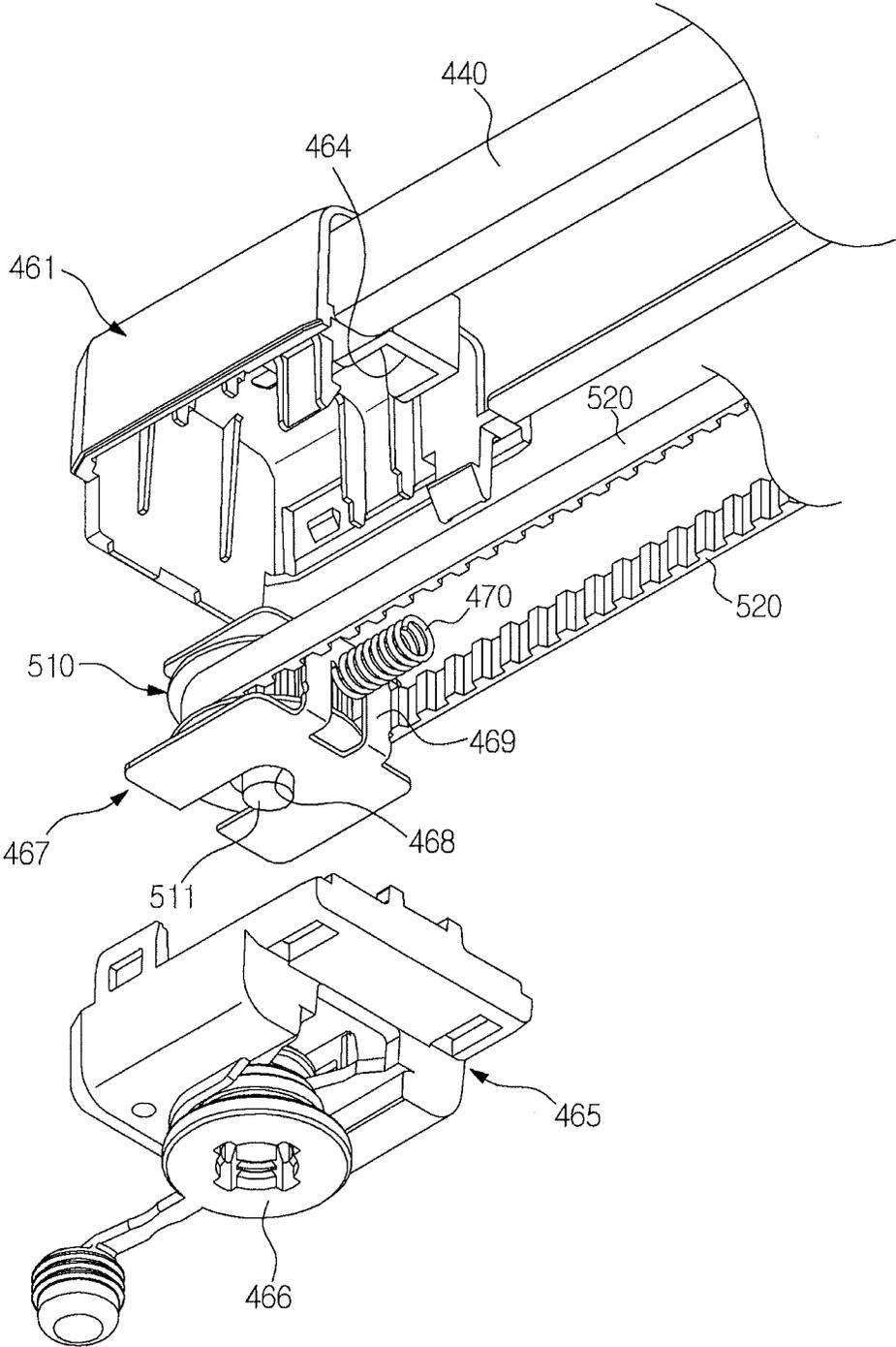


FIG. 27

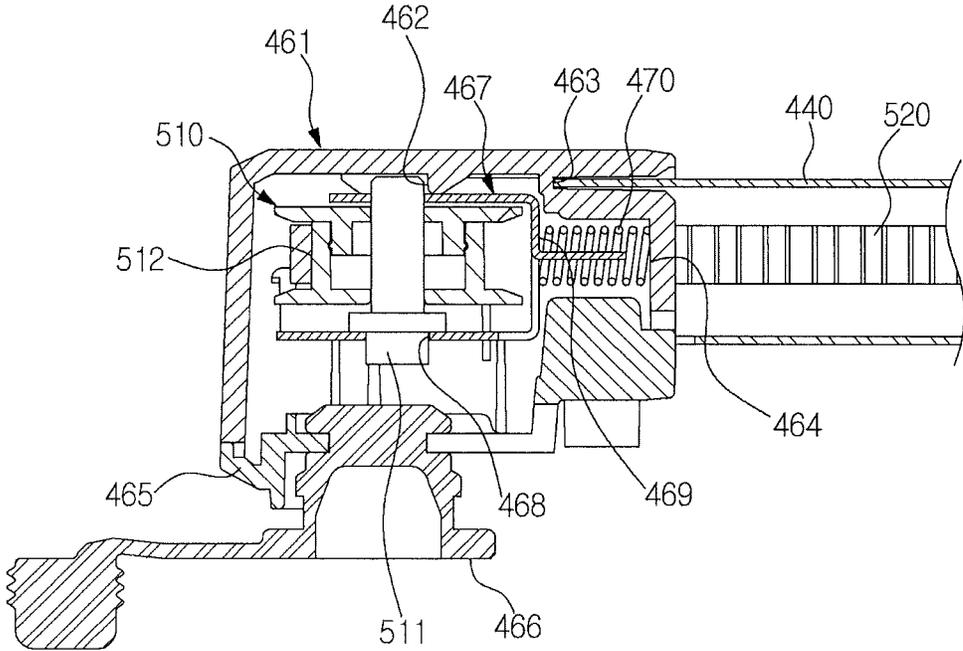


FIG. 28

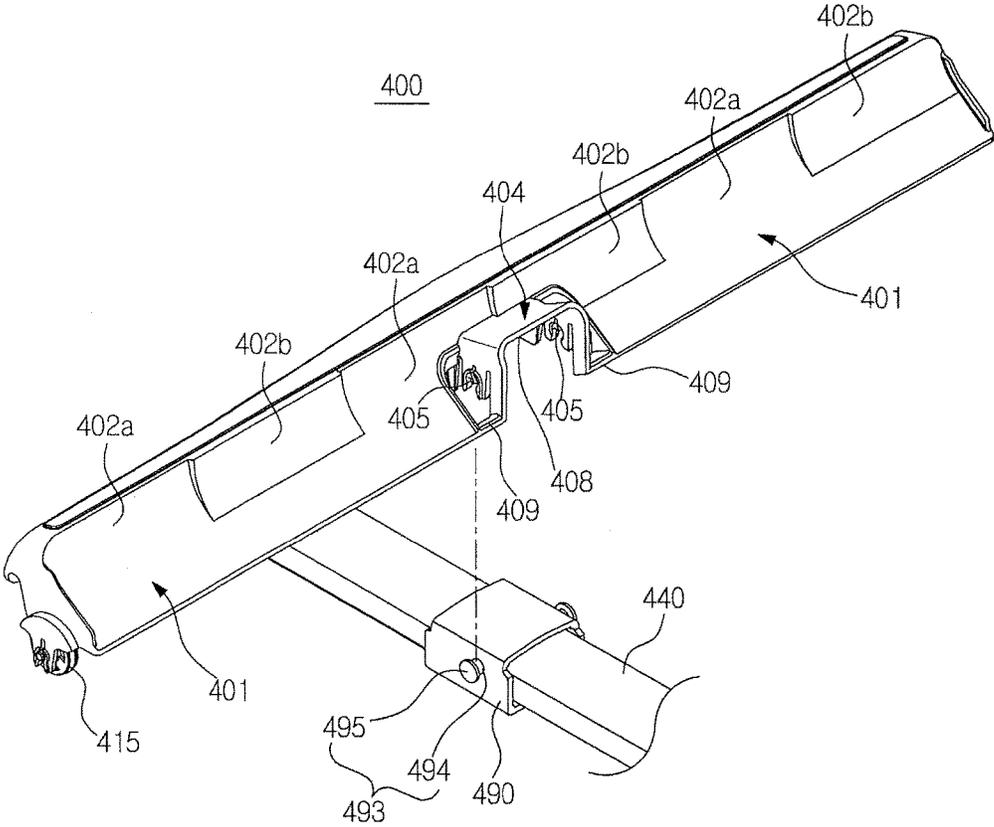


FIG. 29

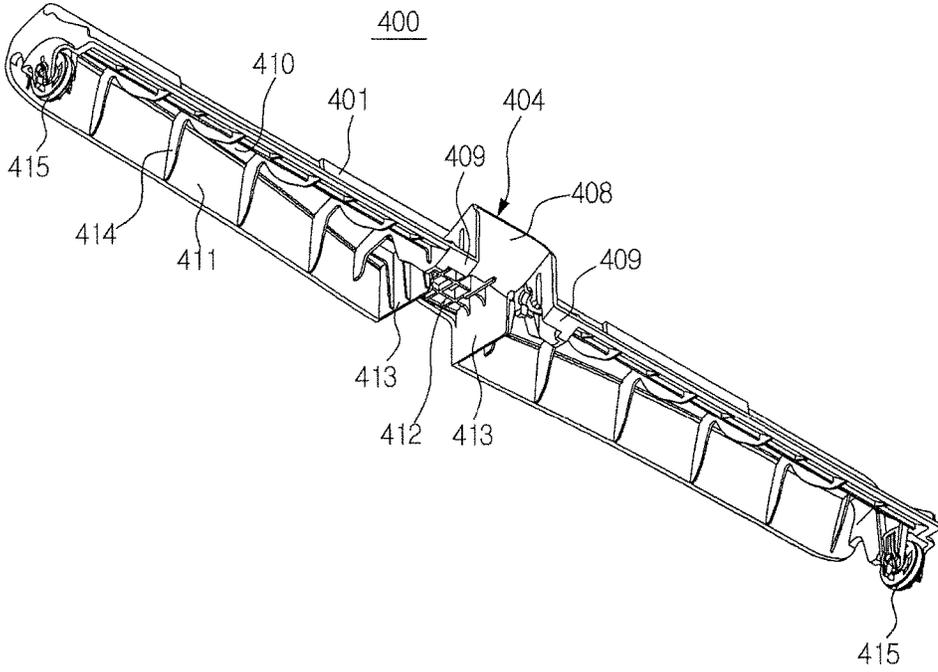


FIG. 30

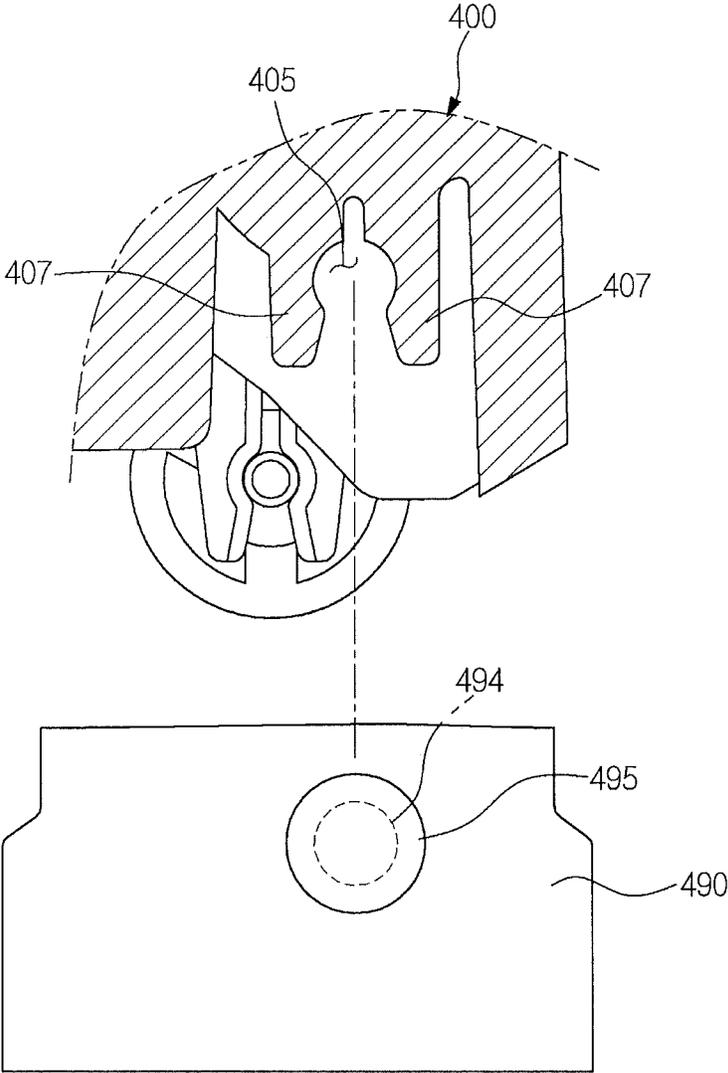


FIG. 31

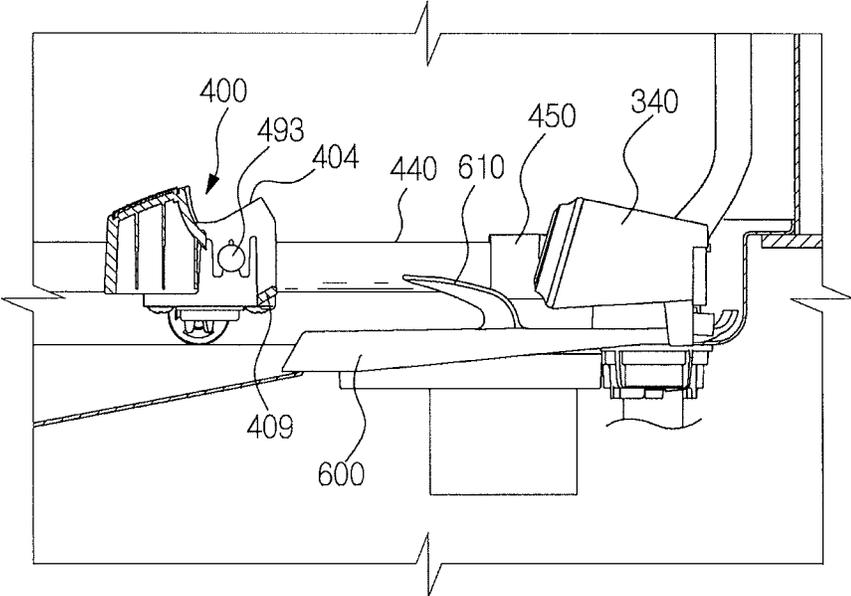


FIG. 32

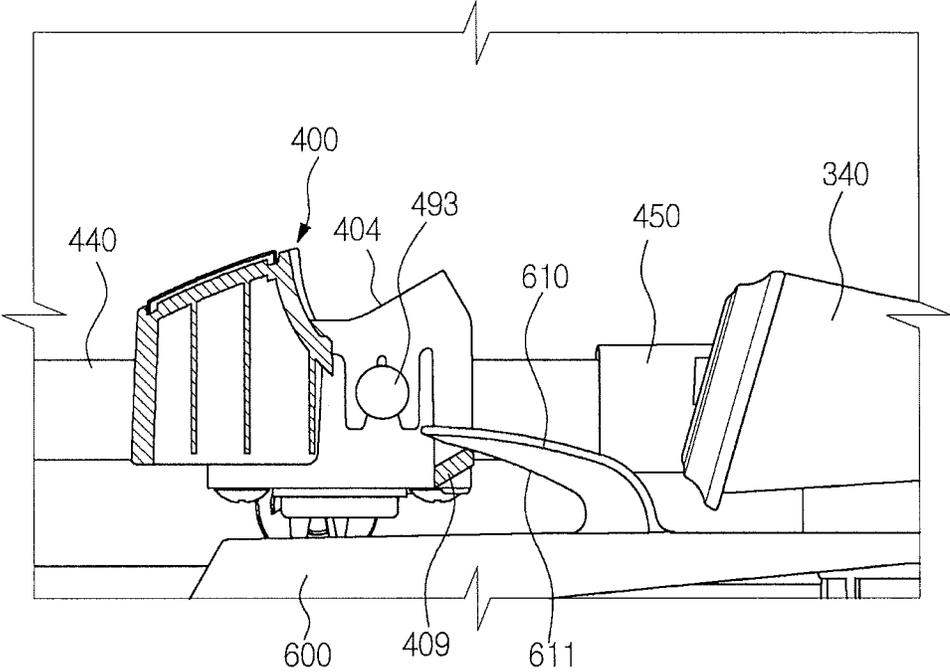


FIG. 33

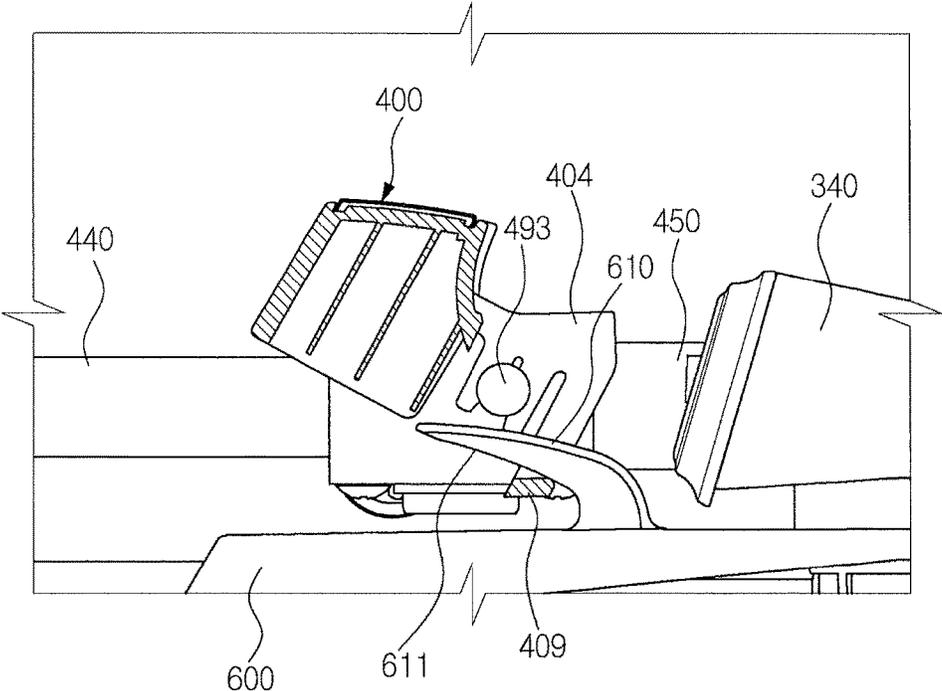


FIG. 34

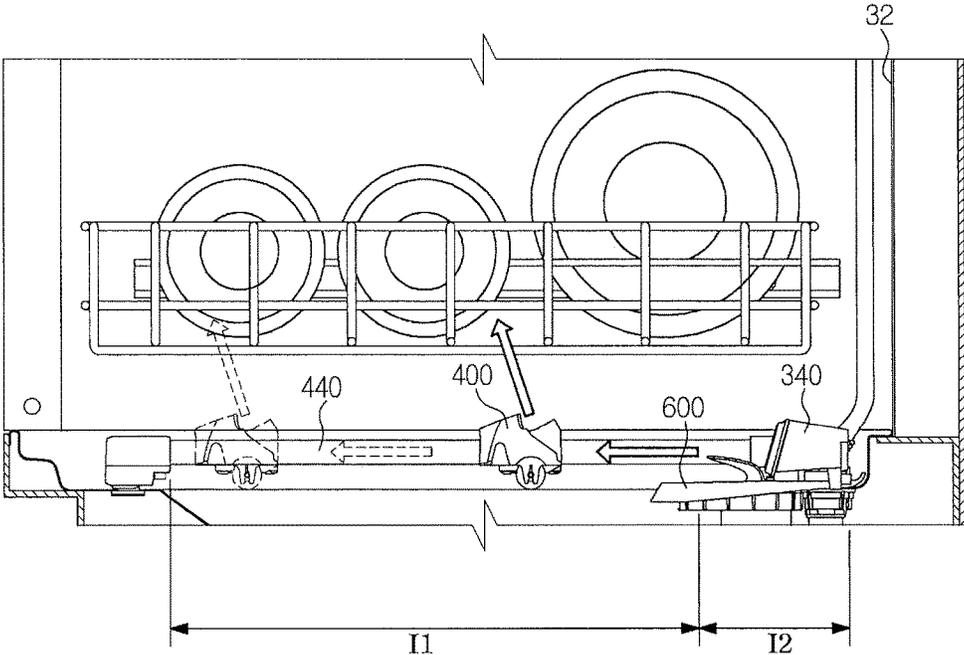


FIG. 35

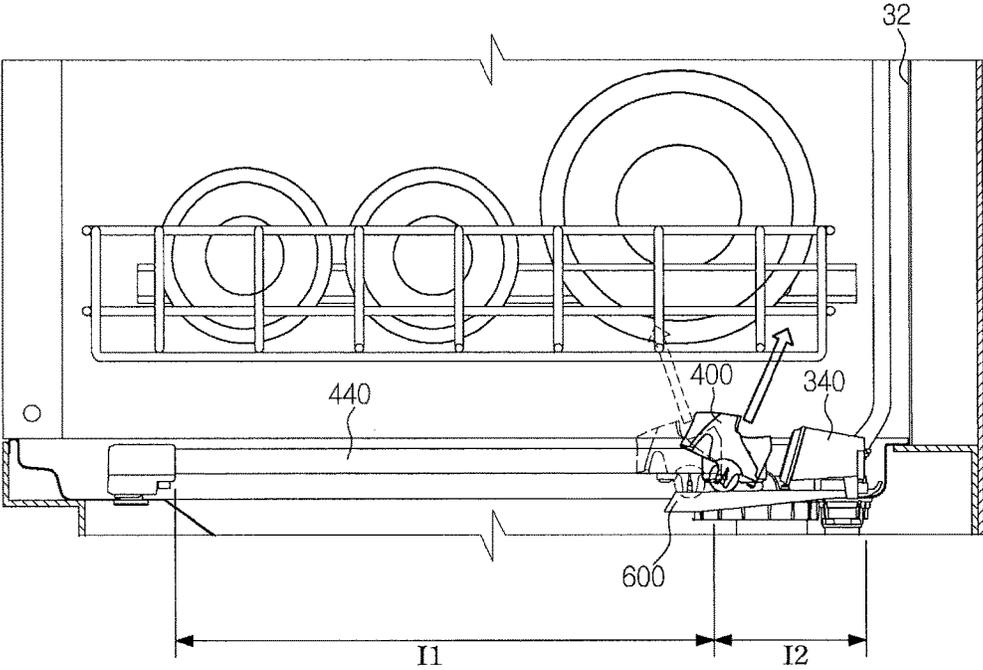


FIG. 36

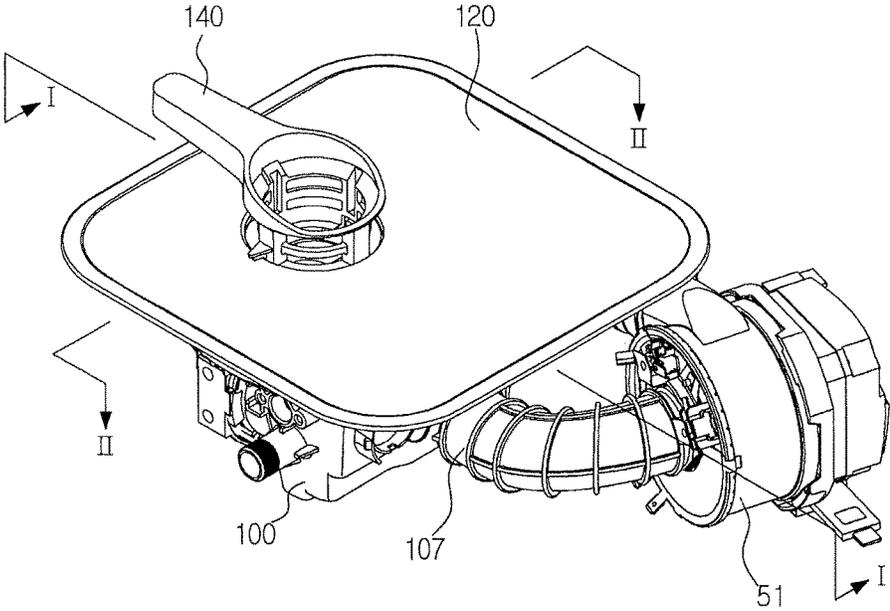


FIG. 37

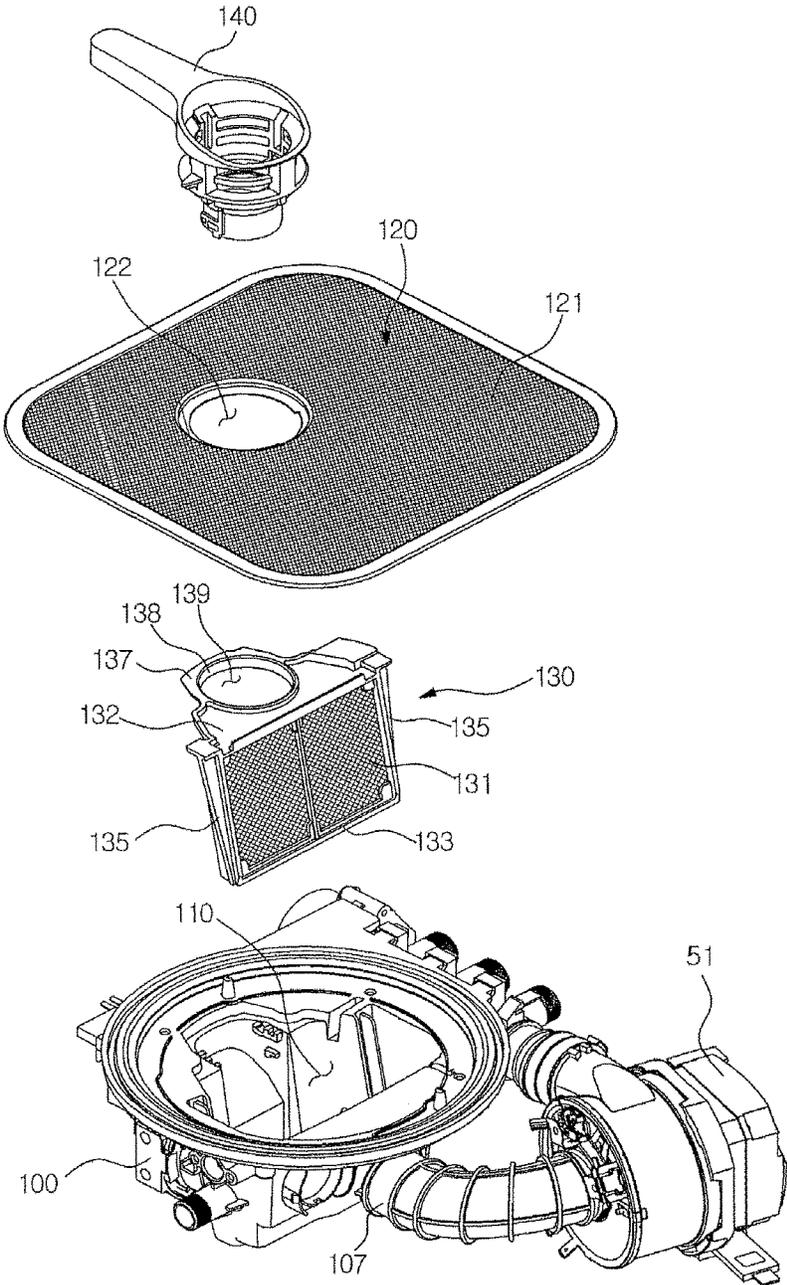


FIG. 38

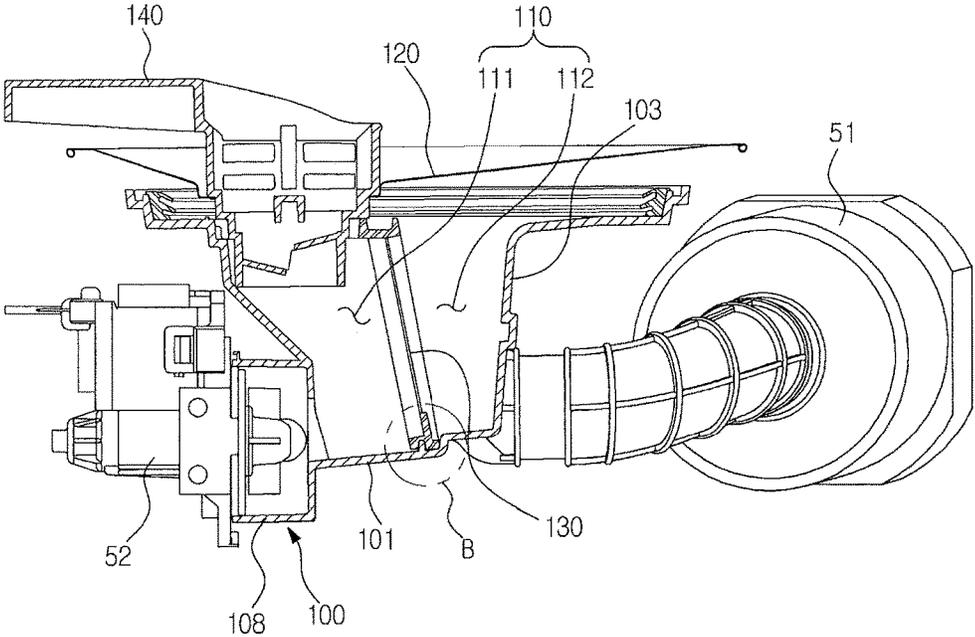


FIG. 39

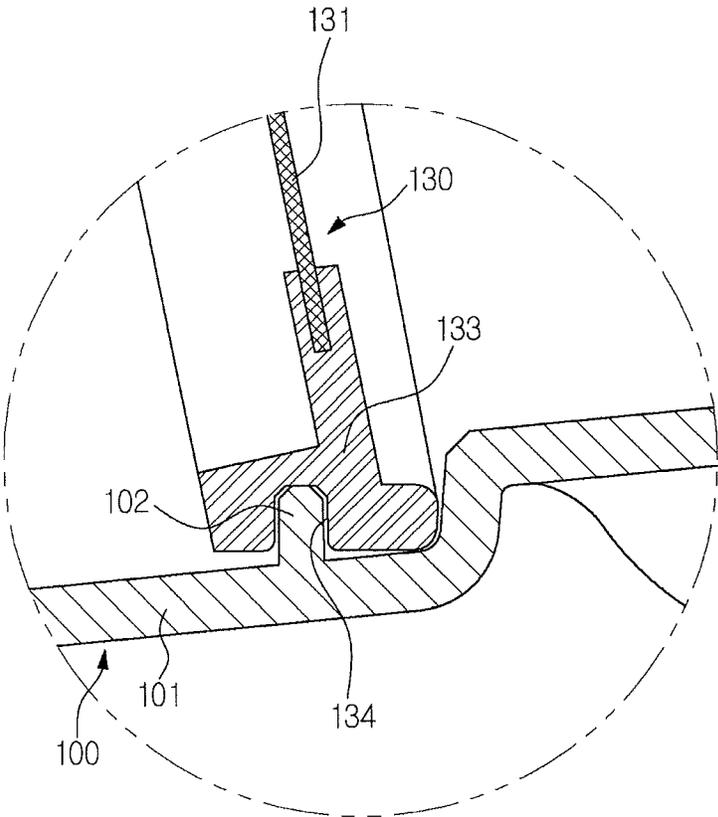


FIG. 40

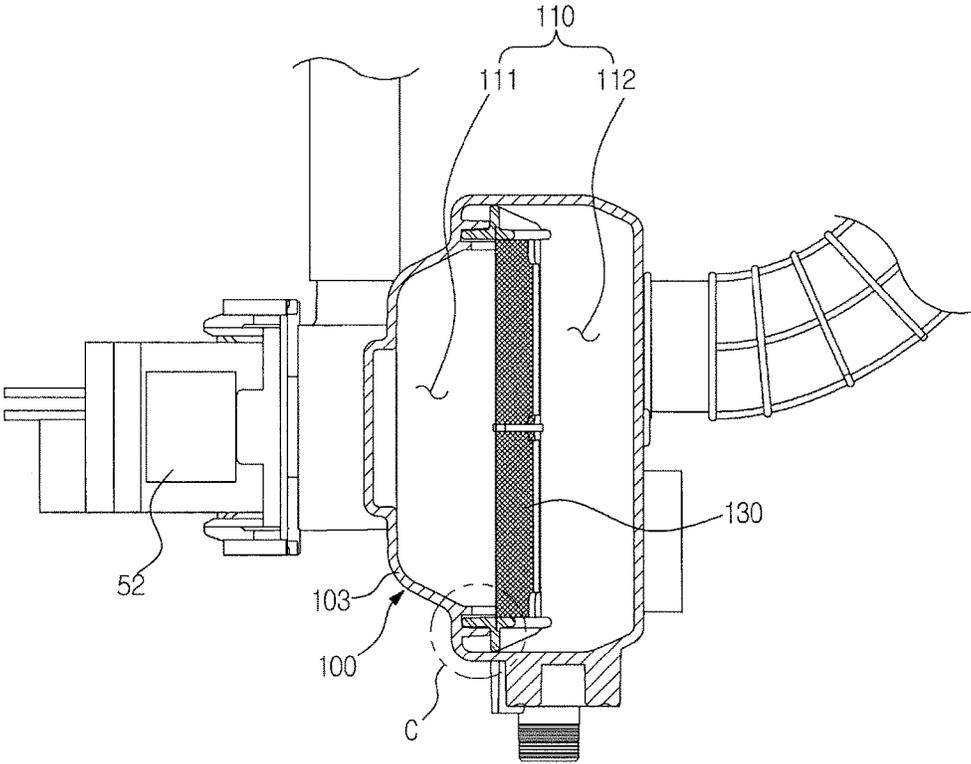


FIG. 41

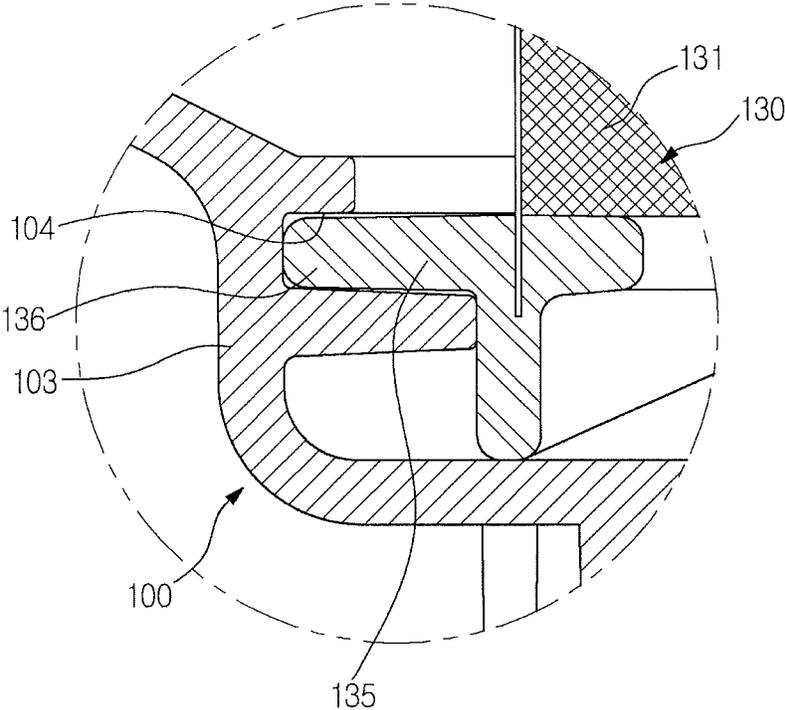


FIG. 42

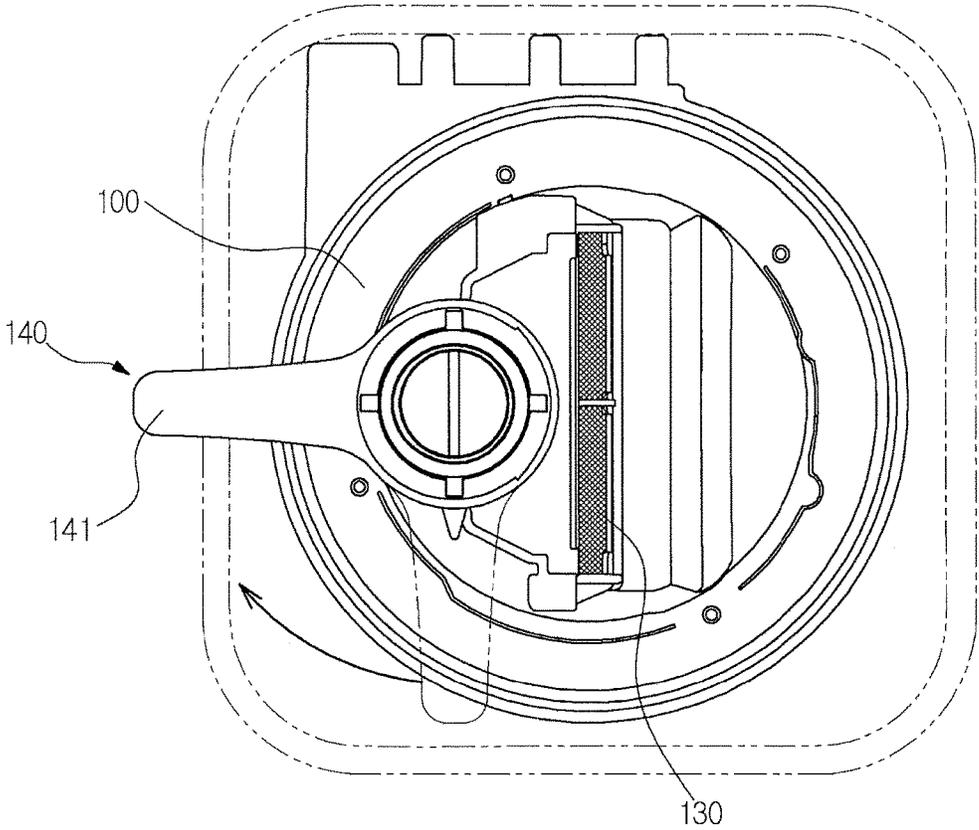


FIG. 43

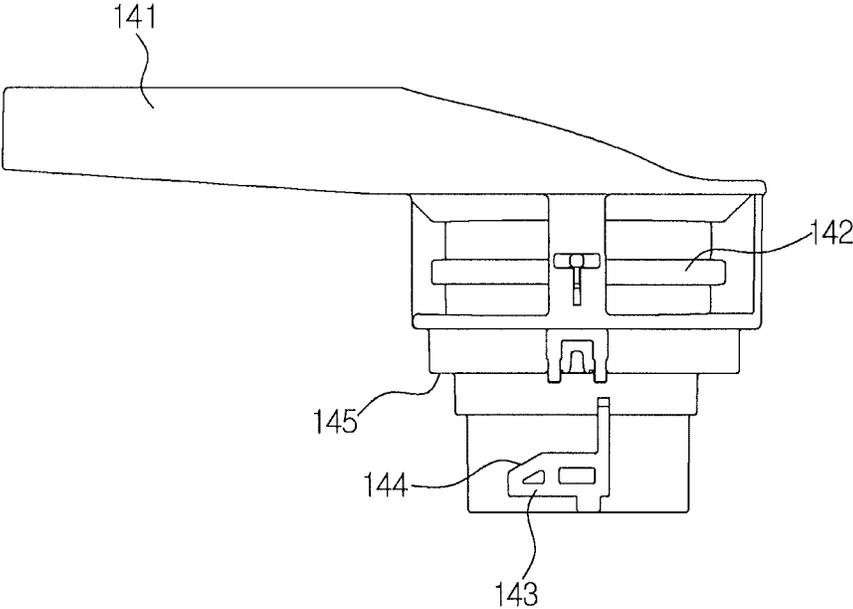


FIG. 44

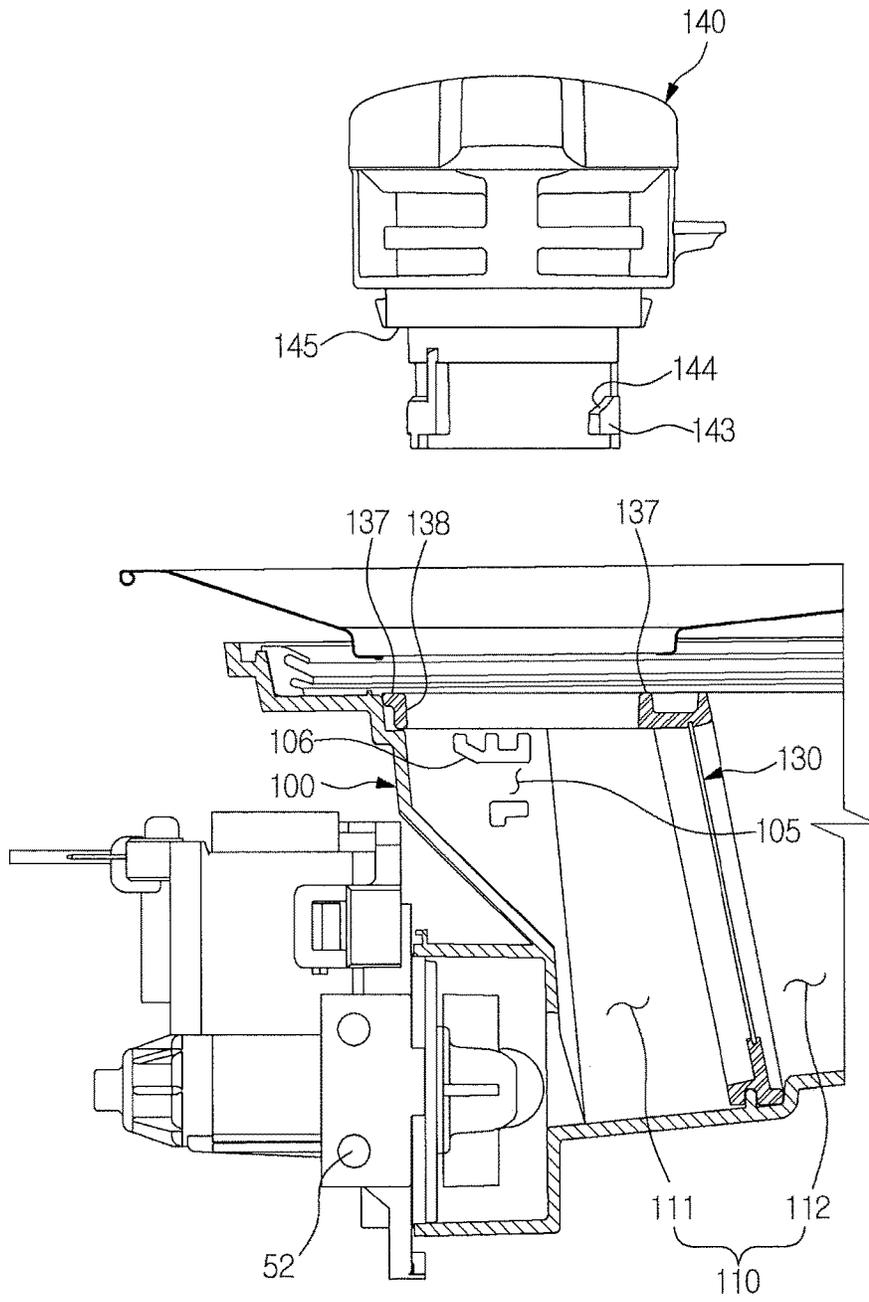


FIG. 45

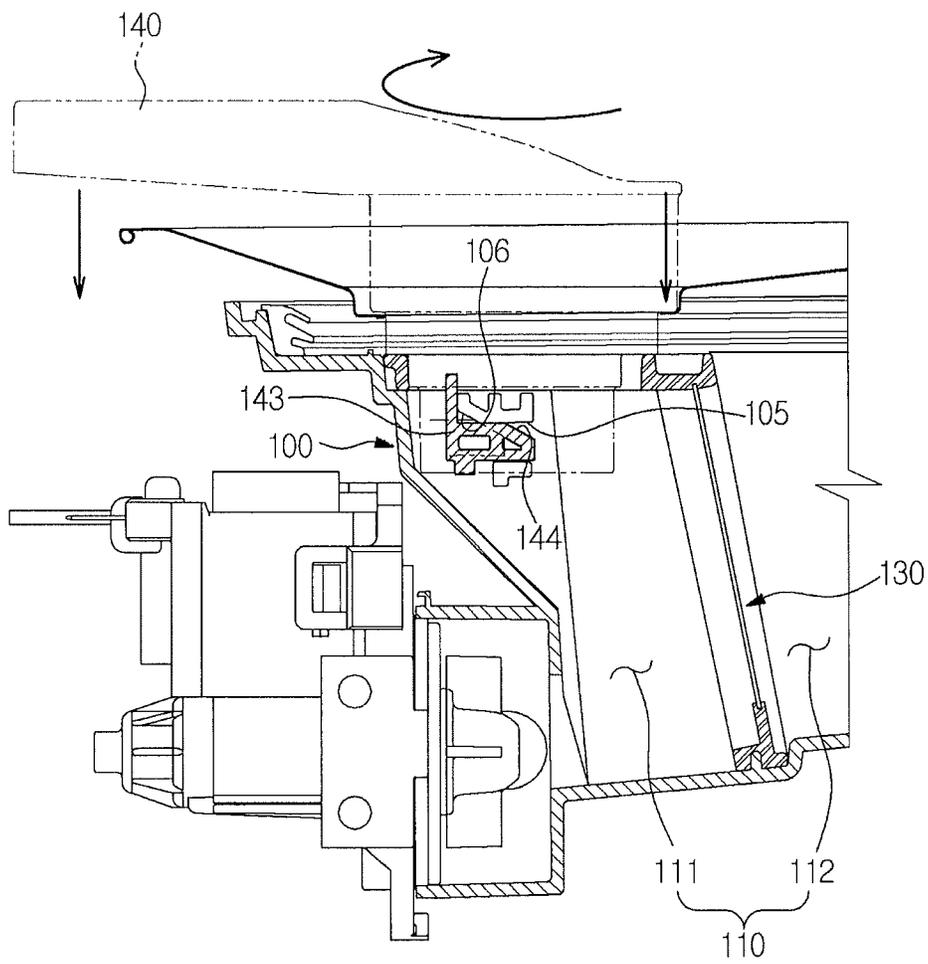


FIG. 46

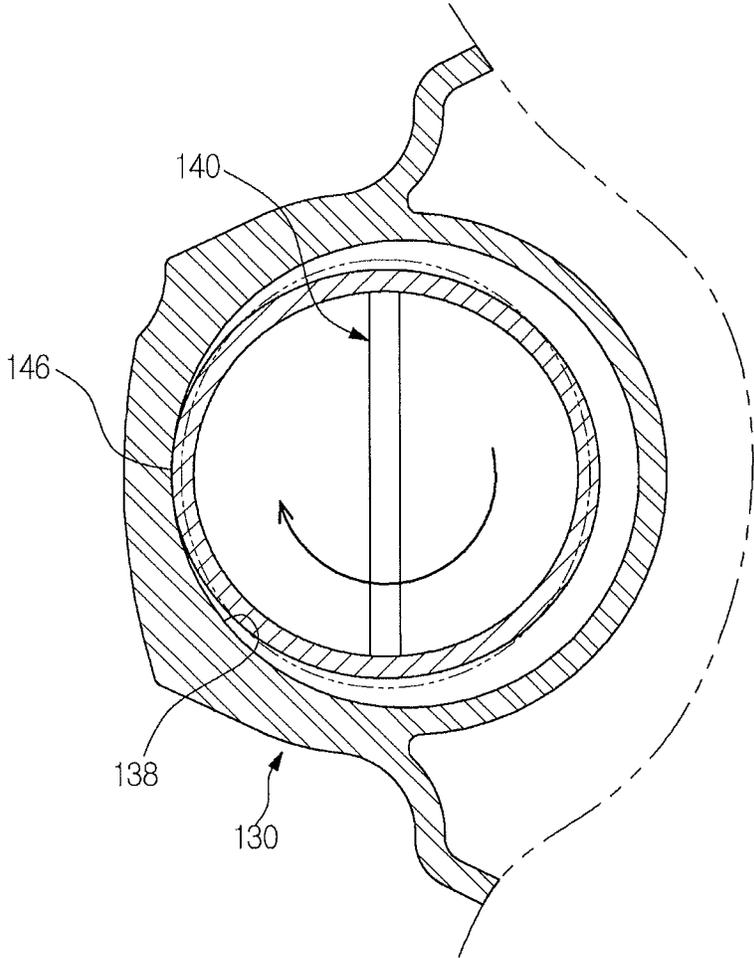


FIG. 47

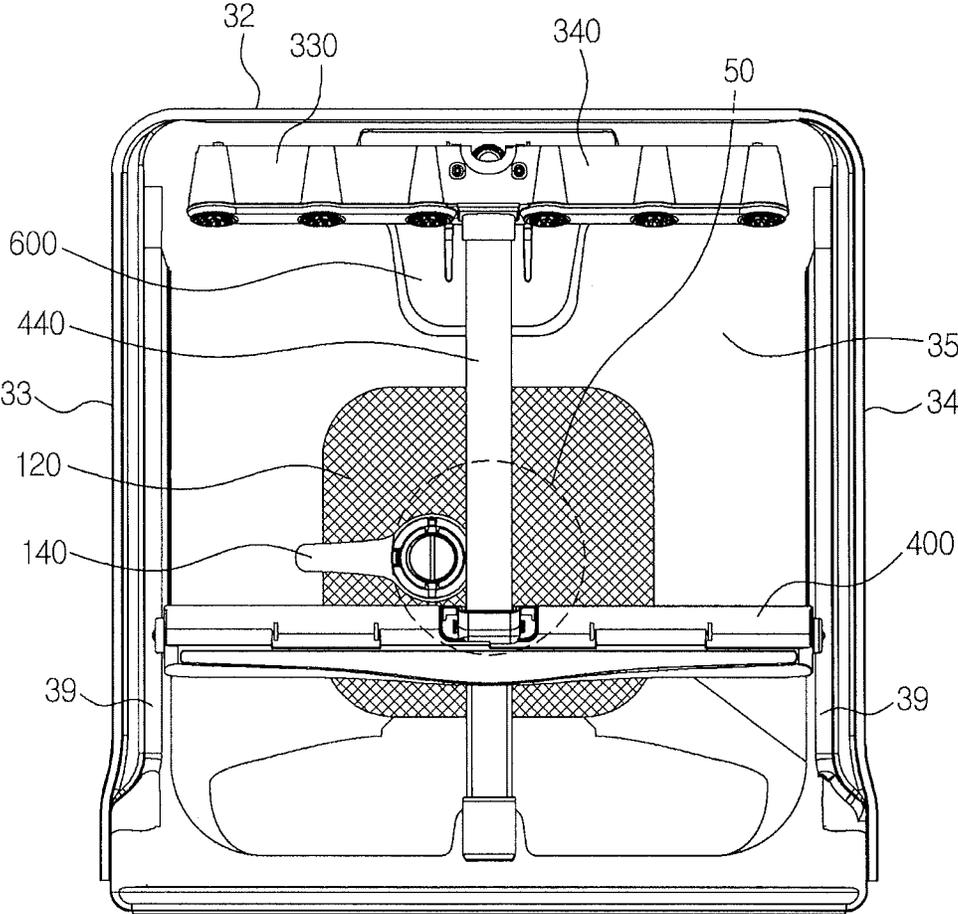


FIG. 48

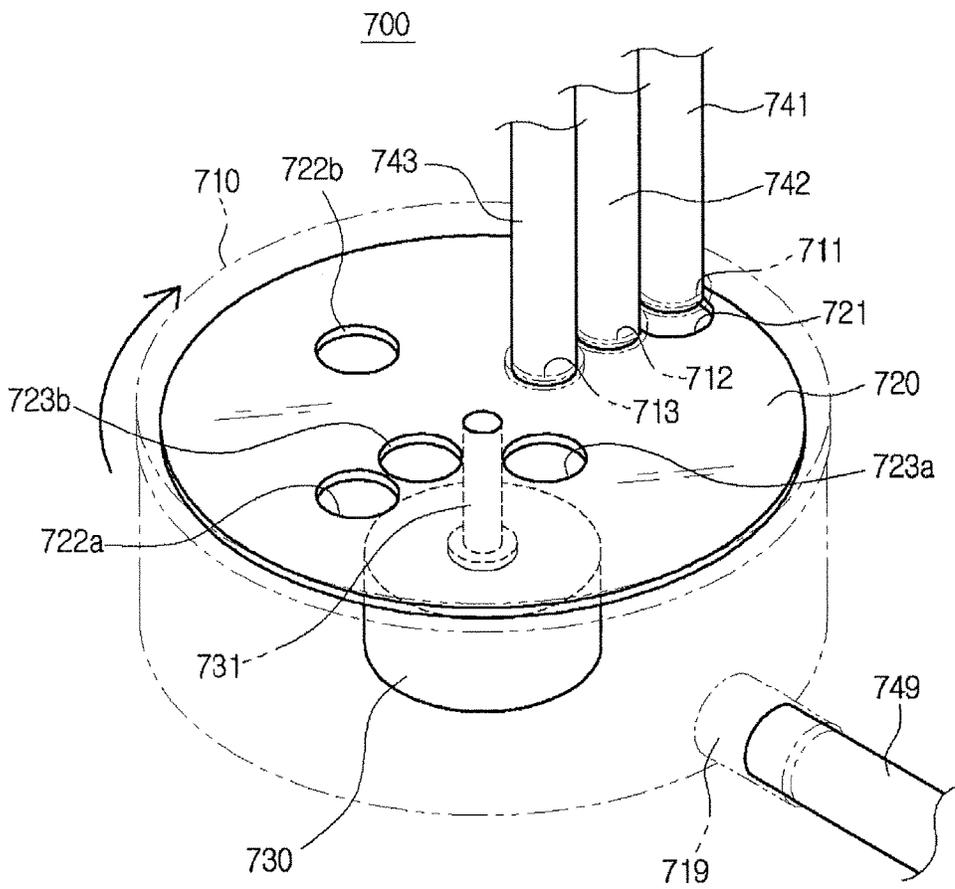


FIG. 49

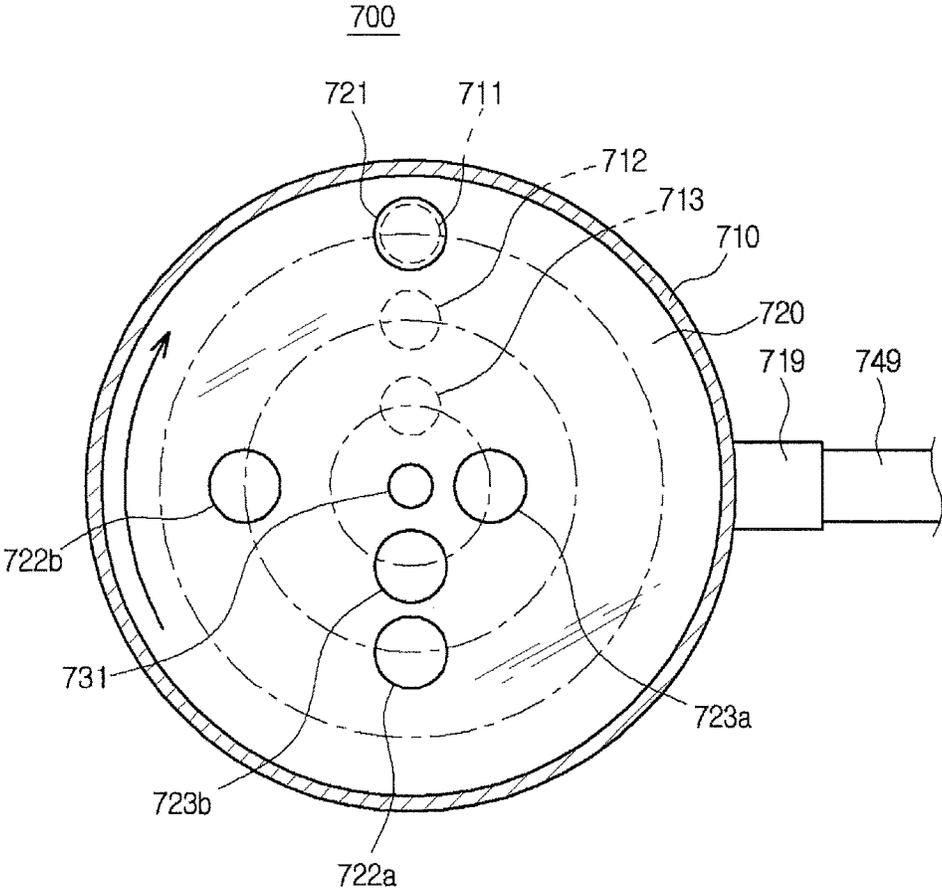


FIG. 50

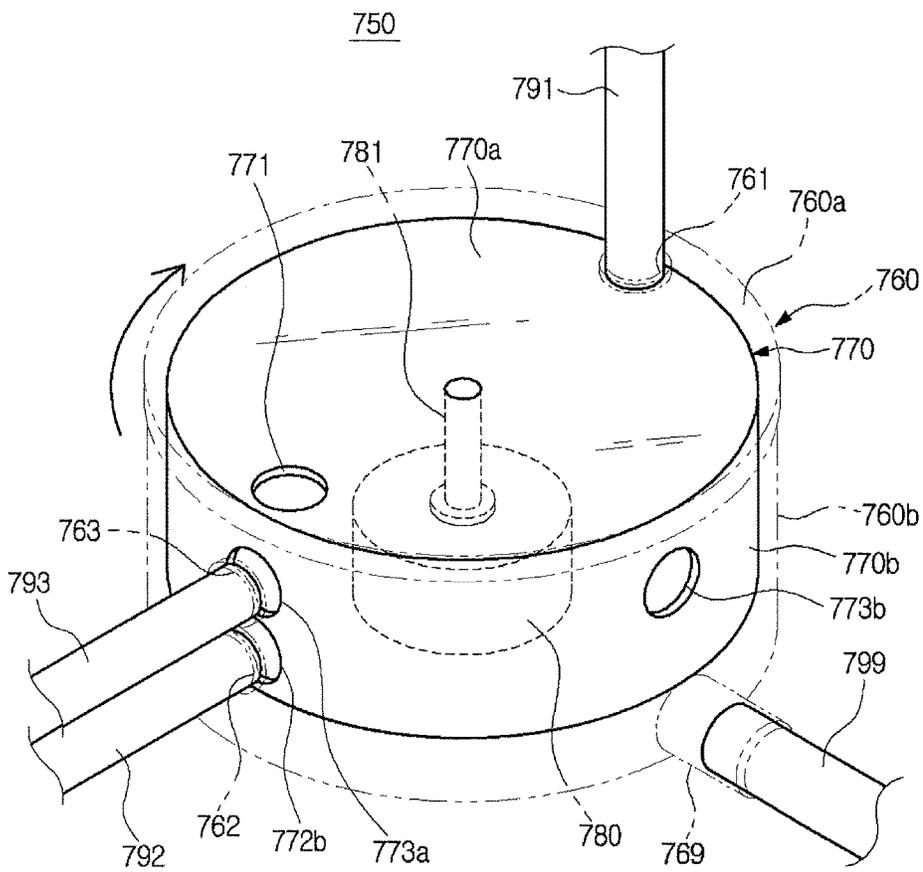


FIG. 51

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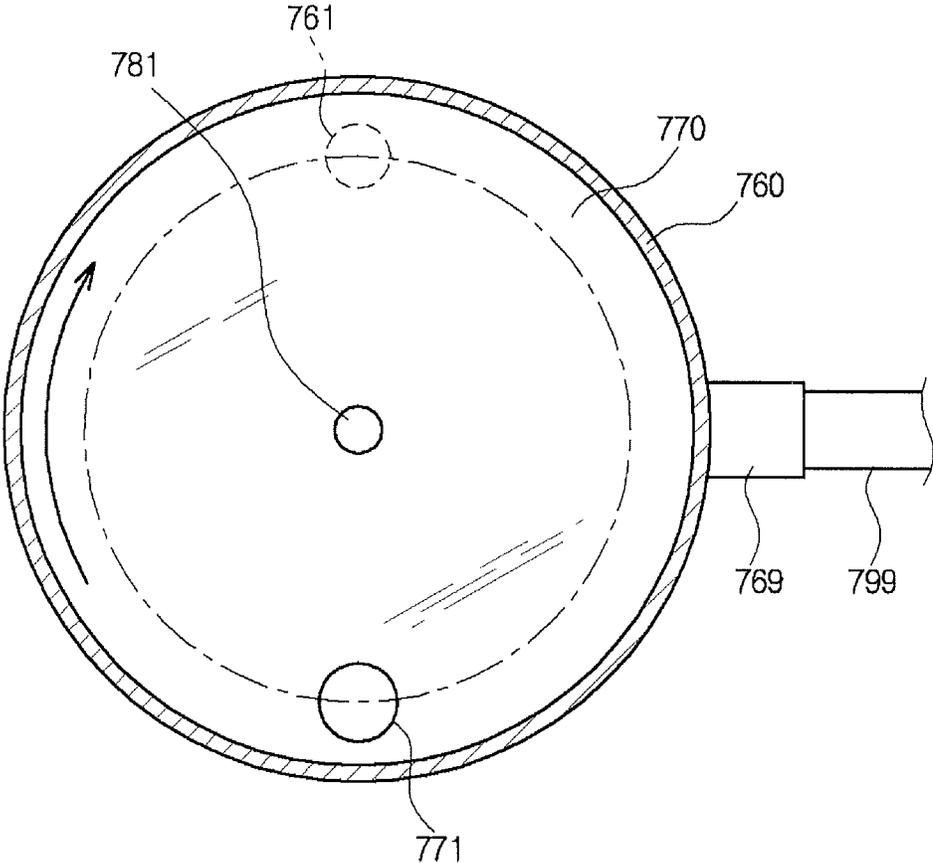


FIG. 52

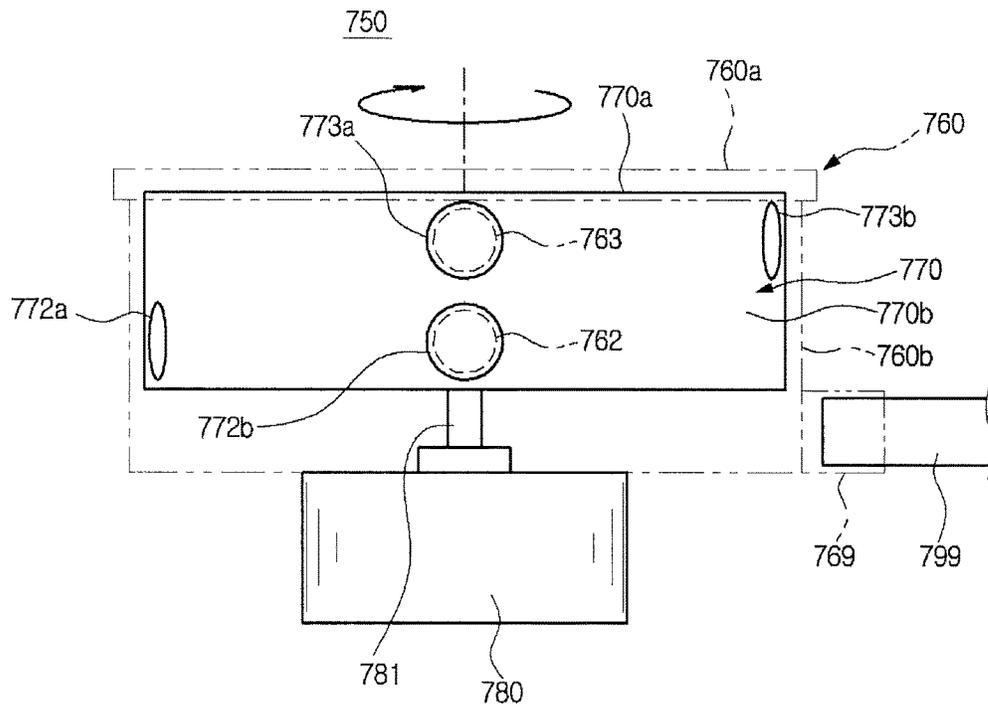


FIG. 53

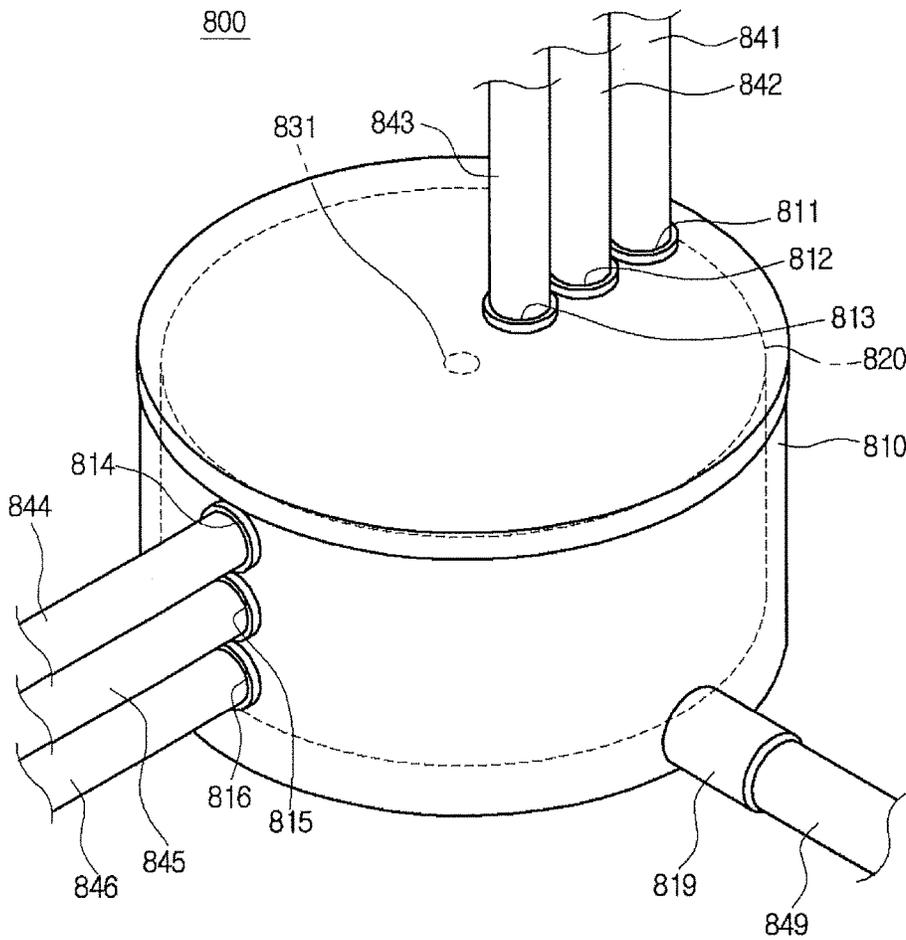


FIG. 54

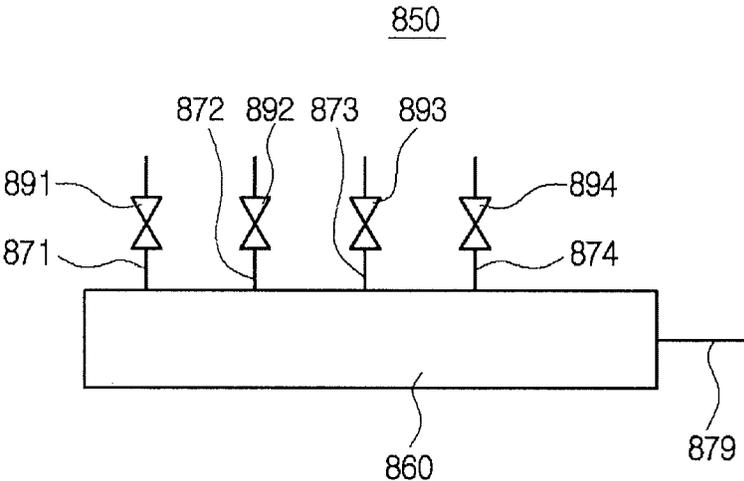


FIG. 55

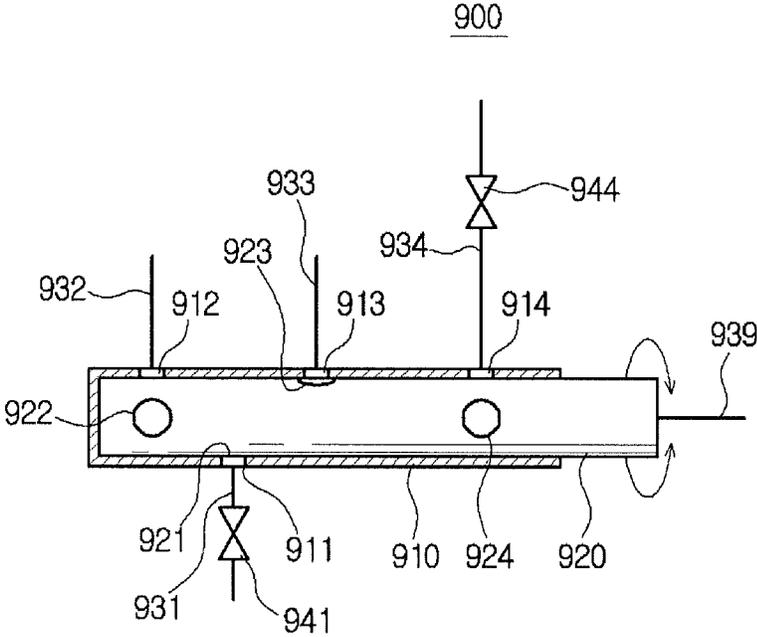
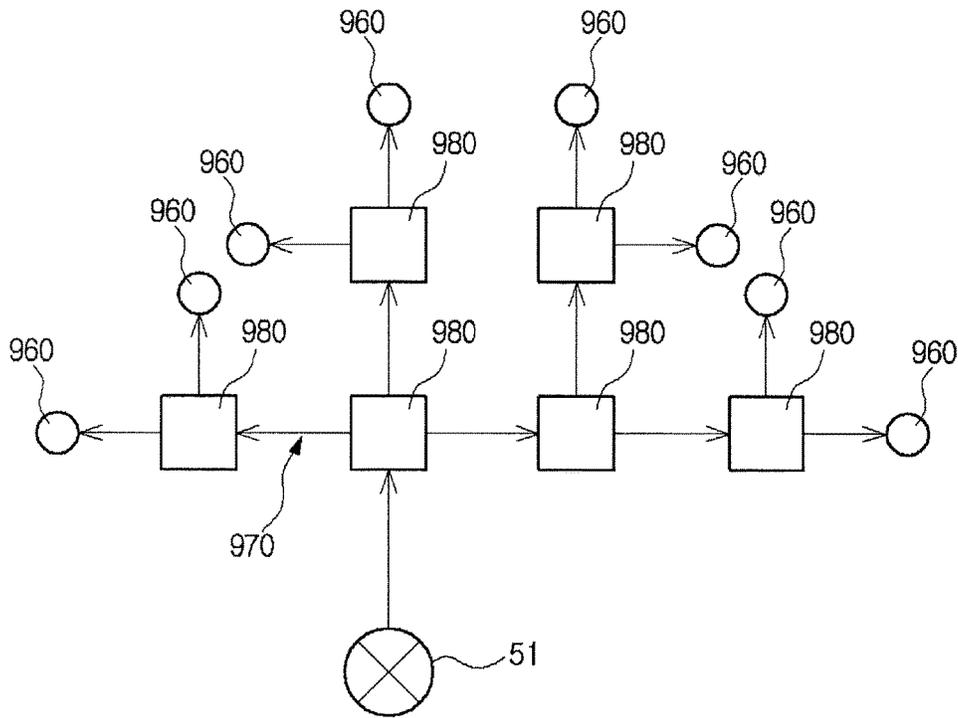


FIG. 56

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DISH WASHING MACHINE**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2013-0169377 and 10-2014-0094605, filed on Dec. 31, 2013 and Jul. 25, 2014, respectively, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field

Embodiments disclosed herein relate to a dish washing machine including a spray nozzle fixed at one side of a wash tank and a vane disposed or placed to be capable of moving within the wash tank to reflect wash water sprayed from the spray nozzle, toward the dishes.

2. Description of the Related Art

A dish washing machine generally refers to a household or commercial appliance which is used to clean or sanitize objects (e.g., dishes) disposed therein. For example, a dish washing machine may include a main body in which a wash tank is disposed or placed, a basket containing the dishes, a sump configured to store wash water, a spray nozzle configured to spray the wash water, and a pump configured to supply the wash water of the sump to the spray nozzle, and configured to spray the wash water toward the dishes under a high pressure and wash the dishes.

In general, a dish washing machine adopts a rotor-type spray structure having a spray nozzle that rotates. A rotation nozzle may spray wash water while rotating due to a water pressure. Since the rotation nozzle sprays the wash water only within a range of a rotation radius, there may be some regions to which the wash water is not sprayed. Accordingly, a linear spray structure has been proposed to prevent occurrence of the regions to which the wash water is not sprayed.

A linear spray structure may include a fixing nozzle fixed at one side of a wash tank and a vane configured to reflect wash water sprayed from a nozzle spray nozzle, toward the dishes while moving within the wash tank. The linear spray structure may spray the wash water to the entire region of the wash tank according to the movement of a reflection plate.

The fixing nozzle may have a plurality of spray holes arranged in a lateral direction of the wash tank and may be fixed to a side of a rear wall of the wash tank. The vane may extend in the lateral direction of the wash tank to reflect the wash tank sprayed from the plurality of spray holes, and may be disposed or placed to linearly reciprocate (move) in forward and backward directions of the wash tank.

The linear spray structure further may include a driving device capable of driving the vane. The driving device may be embodied in various manners. For example, the driving device may include a motor, a belt connected to the motor to transmit driving force to the vane, and a rail configured to guide movement of the vane, and may be disposed or placed such that when the motor is driven, the vane moves on the rail while rotating the belt.

In terms of a distribution device configured to distribute wash water stored in a sump into spray nozzles, the linear spray structure may need a distribution device having a different structure from a rotor-type spray structure.

When a spray nozzle disposed in a lower portion of a wash tank is a rotation nozzle, an outlet of a distribution device may be disposed or placed in an upward direction so that a length of a flow path connecting the outlet of the

distribution device and the rotation nozzle may be reduced, and loss of pressure of wash water may be minimized.

However, when the spray nozzle disposed in the lower portion of the wash tank is a fixing nozzle, since the fixing nozzle is disposed adjacent to a rear wall of the wash tank, the outlet of the distribution device does not need to be disposed or placed upward; rather, when the outlet of the distribution device is disposed or placed upward, a flow path connecting the outlet of the distribution device and the fixing nozzle has to be curved backward as soon as the flow path starts from the outlet of the distribution device. Thus, loss of pressure of wash water may increase.

Meanwhile, since spray nozzles are fixed in the linear spray structure, wash water is distributed only to some of the spray nozzles, thereby enabling a division washing operation of spraying wash water only to a partial region of a wash tank.

SUMMARY

Therefore, it is an aspect of the disclosure to provide a dish washing machine having a linear spray structure, in which a distribution device configured to distribute wash water may minimize loss of pressure of the wash water and increase spatial availability.

Additional aspects of the disclosure will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the disclosure.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a dish washing machine may include a main body, a plurality of spray nozzles configured to spray wash water, a sump configured to store the wash water, a pump configured to pump the wash water stored in the sump, and a distribution device configured to distribute the wash water pumped by the pump into the plurality of spray nozzles. The distribution device may include a cylindrical housing having an inlet formed in one axial end portion and a plurality of outlets that are arranged in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing in an axial direction and connected to the plurality of spray nozzles, an opening/closing member rotatably disposed or placed within the cylindrical housing to open and close the plurality of outlets, and a motor configured to rotate the opening/closing member.

The plurality of outlets may be independently opened and closed according to rotation of the opening/closing member.

The opening/closing member may include a rotation body having a cylindrical shape, and a plurality of sealing members combined with the rotation body to close the plurality of outlets.

The sealing member may be combined with the rotation body to be capable of moving in a radial direction of the rotation body.

The sealing member may move between an open position in which the sealing member is closely adhered to the rotation body and a closed position in which the sealing member is closely adhered to the outlet.

The sealing member may move from the open position to the closed position due to pressure of the wash water.

The sealing member may include a sealing unit having a curved shape and a coupling protrusion that protrudes from the sealing unit to be combined with the rotation body.

The rotation body may include a clasp hole into which the coupling protrusion is inserted.

The coupling protrusion may include a stopper unit that protrudes to prevent the sealing member from being detached from the rotation body.

An outer circumferential surface of the rotation body may be spaced a predetermined distance from an inner circumferential surface of the housing.

The rotation body may include a spacing protrusion that protrudes in a radial direction to maintain the distance between the outer circumferential surface of the rotation body and the inner circumferential surface of the housing.

The rotation body may include a plurality of communication holes formed in a circumferential surface of the rotation body to correspond to the plurality of outlets.

The distribution device may further include a cam member combined with the opening/closing member and the motor to rotate along with the opening/closing member, and a micro switch contacted by the cam member to detect a rotation position of the opening/closing member.

The cam member may include convex units and concave units alternately formed in a circumferential direction such that the micro switch is turned on and off according to the rotation of the cam member.

The distribution device may further include a controller that designates rotation positions of the opening/closing member according to time points at which the micro switch is turned on and off, and rotates the motor or stops the rotation of the motor such that the opening/closing member rotates to a required rotation position from among the rotation positions.

The plurality of spray nozzles may include at least one fixing nozzle fixed at one side of the wash tank, and at least one rotation nozzle configured to rotate due to water pressure.

The at least one fixing nozzle may be disposed adjacent to a rear wall of the wash tank, the inlet may be disposed or placed to face toward one sidewall of the main body, and the plurality of outlets may be disposed or placed to face toward a rear wall of the main body.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a dish washing machine may include a main body, a wash tank disposed or placed within the main body, a basket disposed or placed in the wash tank to store the dishes, a plurality of fixing nozzles fixed at one side of the wash tank to spray wash water, a vane configured to move within the wash tank and reflect the wash water from the plurality of fixing nozzles toward the dishes, and a distribution device configured to selectively distribute the wash water into all or some of the plurality of fixing nozzles such that the wash water is selectively sprayed to the entire region or a partial region of the wash tank.

The plurality of fixing nozzles may include a left fixing nozzle disposed or placed on the left side of the wash tank, and a right fixing nozzle disposed or placed on the right side of the wash tank. The wash tank may be divided into left and right regions and the left and right regions of the wash tank may be washed independently.

The plurality of fixing nozzles may be disposed adjacent to a rear wall of the main body.

The distribution device may include a cylindrical housing having an inlet formed in one axial end portion thereof and a plurality of outlets arranged in a circumferential surface in an axial direction and connected to the plurality of fixing nozzles, an opening/closing member rotatably disposed or placed within the housing to open and close the plurality of outlets, and a motor configured to rotate the opening/closing member.

The inlet may be disposed or placed to face toward one sidewall of the main body, and the plurality of outlets may be disposed or placed to face toward a rear wall of the main body.

The opening/closing member may include a rotation body having a cylindrical shape and including a plurality of communication holes corresponding to the plurality of outlets, and a plurality of sealing members combined with the rotation body to close the plurality of outlets.

The distribution device may further include a cam member that is combined with the opening/closing member and rotates along with the opening/closing member, and a micro switch that is contacted by the cam member to detect a rotation position of the opening/closing member.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a distribution device may include a cylindrical housing including an inlet formed in one axial end portion and a plurality of outlets arranged in a circumferential surface in an axial direction, a cylindrical rotation body rotatably disposed or placed within the housing and having a plurality of communication holes corresponding to the plurality of outlets, a plurality of sealing members combined with the rotation body to close the plurality of outlets, a motor configured to rotate the rotation body, a cam member combined with the rotation body to rotate along with the rotation body, and a micro switch contacted by the cam member to detect a rotation position of the rotation body.

The sealing member may be combined with the rotation body to be capable of moving in a radial direction between an open position in which the sealing member is closely adhered to the rotation body and a closed position in which the sealing member is closely adhered to the outlet. The sealing member may move from the open position to the closed position due to water pressure.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a dish washing machine may include a main body, a plurality of spray nozzles configured to spray wash water, a sump configured to store the wash water, a pump configured to pump the wash water stored in the sump, and a distribution device configured to distribute the wash water pumped by the pump into the plurality of spray nozzles. The distribution device may include a housing formed in a cylindrical shape having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a circumferential surface, the housing having a plurality of outlets connected to the plurality of spray nozzles, wherein the plurality of outlets comprise at least one axial outlet formed in at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface of the housing, and at least one radial outlet formed in the circumferential surface of the housing, an opening/closing member disposed or placed within the housing to be capable of rotating about an axial direction of the housing, the opening/closing member having an axial opening/closing unit configured to open and close the at least one axial outlet, and a radial opening/closing unit configured to open and close the at least one radial outlet, and a motor configured to generate rotary power to rotate the opening/closing member.

The axial opening/closing unit may be integrated with the radial opening/closing unit.

The axial opening/closing unit and the radial opening/closing unit may be disposed perpendicular to each other.

The axial opening/closing unit may include an axial communication hole disposed or placed to correspond to the axial outlet and open the axial outlet.

The radial opening/closing unit may include a radial communication hole disposed or placed to correspond to the radial outlet and open the radial outlet.

The opening/closing member may have a cylindrical shape.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a dish washing machine may include a main body, a plurality of spray nozzles configured to spray wash water, a sump

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configured to store the wash water, a pump configured to pump the wash water stored in the sump, and a distribution system configured to distribute the wash water pumped by the pump into the plurality of spray nozzles. The distribution system may include a distribution flow path configured to connect the pump with the plurality of spray nozzles and having a plurality of branch points, and a plurality of distribution devices disposed or placed at the plurality of branch points to distribute the wash water.

At least one of the plurality of distribution devices may include a cylindrical housing having an inlet and a plurality of outlets, an opening/closing member disposed or placed within the housing to be capable of rotating about an axial direction of the housing, the opening/closing member configured to open and close at least some of the plurality of outlets, and a motor configured to generate rotary power to rotate the opening/closing member.

The plurality of outlets may be formed in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing.

The plurality of outlets may be arranged in an axial direction of the housing.

The plurality of outlets may be formed in at least one of a top surface and a bottom surface of the cylindrical housing.

The plurality of outlets may be arranged in a radial direction of the housing.

The plurality of outlets may include at least one radial outlet formed in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing, and at least one axial outlet formed in at least one of a top surface and a bottom surface of the cylindrical housing.

The opening/closing member may include an axial opening/closing unit configured to open and close the at least one axial outlet, and a radial opening/closing unit configured to open and close the at least one radial outlet and disposed perpendicular to the axial opening/closing unit.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, a distribution device for a dish washing machine may include a housing including a plurality of outlets arranged on a surface of the housing and an inlet connectable with a pump of the dish washing machine, an opening/closing member rotatably disposed within the housing formed with a plurality of communication holes corresponding to the plurality of outlets to selectively open and close the plurality of outlets, and a motor to rotate the opening/closing member, wherein an axial direction of at least one outlet is substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the inlet.

The housing may be cylindrical and the inlet may be formed in one axial end portion thereof and the plurality of outlets may be arranged in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing in an axial direction. The opening/closing member may include a rotation body having a cylindrical shape, and a plurality of sealing members combined with the rotation body to close the plurality of outlets.

The distribution device may further include a cam member combined with the rotation body to rotate together with the rotation body and a micro switch contacted by the cam member to detect a rotation position of the rotation body.

The distribution device may further include one or more distribution valves to correspond to one or more of the plurality of outlets, to open and close outflow paths of the one or more of the plurality of outlets.

The housing may be cylindrical and have a top surface, a bottom surface, and a circumferential surface, and the inlet may be formed in a circumferential surface of the housing, and at least one outlet may be formed in at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface of the housing. Also, at least one outlet may be formed in the circumferential surface

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of the housing. A plurality of outlets may be formed in at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface of the housing, and a number of communication holes may be greater than a number of outlets formed in the at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface of the housing.

A plurality of outlets may be formed in the circumferential surface of the housing, and a number of communication holes may be greater than a number of outlets formed in the circumferential surface of the housing.

The opening/closing member may include an axial opening/closing unit to open and close at least one outlet formed in at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface of the housing, and a radial opening/closing unit to open and close at least one outlet formed in the circumferential surface of the housing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and/or other aspects of the disclosure will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

FIG. 2 is a view illustrating a lower portion of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a view of a flow path structure of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an exploded view of a fixing nozzle assembly of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the fixing nozzle assembly of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a view of a distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 is an exploded view of a distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 8 is an exploded view of an opening/closing member of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 10 is an enlarged view of portion A of FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a side view of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, wherein a motor is omitted;

FIG. 12 is an enlarged view of a cam member of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 13 is a view showing a relationship between on/off time points of a micro switch of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1 and a rotation position of an opening/closing member;

FIG. 14 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash water is distributed only into rotation nozzles by opening only a second outlet;

FIG. 15 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash water is distributed only into right fixing nozzles by opening only a third outlet;

FIG. 16 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash water is distributed only into left fixing nozzles and the right fixing nozzles by opening only a first outlet and the third outlet;

FIG. 17 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in

which wash water is distributed only into the left fixing nozzles by opening only the first outlet;

FIG. 18 is an exploded view of a bottom plate, a bottom plate cover, and a motor of a wash tank of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 19 is a cross-sectional view of the bottom plate, the bottom plate cover, and the motor of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 20 is an exploded view of a vane, a rail assembly, a spray nozzle assembly, and a bottom plate cover of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 21 is a view of the vane and a driving device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, which is an exploded view of the driving device;

FIG. 22 is a view of a belt and a belt holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 23 is a cross-sectional view of a rail, the belt, the belt holder, and a vane holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 24 is a view of the rail, the belt, a driving pulley, and a rear holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 25 is a cross-sectional view of the rail, the belt, the driving pulley, and the rear holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 26 is a view of the rail, the belt, an idle pulley, and a front holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 27 is a cross-sectional view of the rail, the belt, the idle pulley, and the front holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 28 is a view of the vane and the vane holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 29 is a perspective view of the vane of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 30 is an exploded view of the vane and a portion of the vane holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 31 through 33 are views illustrating a rotation operation of the vane of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 34 is a view illustrating an operation of, by a vane, reflecting wash water in a vane movement section of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 35 is a view illustrating an operation of, by the vane, reflecting wash water in a vane non-movement section of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 36 is a view illustrating of a sump, a coarse filter, and a fine filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 37 is an exploded view of a sump, a coarse filter, a fine filter, and a micro filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 38 is a cross-sectional view taken along line I-I of FIG. 36;

FIG. 39 is an exploded view of portion B of FIG. 38;

FIG. 40 is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II of FIG. 38;

FIG. 41 is an exploded view of portion C of FIG. 40;

FIG. 42 is a plan view of the sump and the coarse filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, which illustrates a locking operation of the coarse filter;

FIG. 43 is a side view of the coarse filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 44 is a view of the sump and the coarse filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, which illustrates the locking operation of the coarse filter;

FIG. 45 is a cross-sectional view of the sump, the coarse filter, and a micro filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 46 is an exploded plan view of the coarse filter and a portion of the micro filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 47 is a plan view of a lower portion of a wash tank of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1;

FIG. 48 is a perspective view of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

FIG. 49 is a plan view illustrating operations of the distribution device of FIG. 48;

FIG. 50 is a perspective view of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

FIG. 51 is a plan view illustrating operations of the distribution device of FIG. 50;

FIG. 52 is a side view illustrating operations of the distribution device of FIG. 50;

FIG. 53 is a perspective view of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

FIG. 54 is a conceptual diagram of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

FIG. 55 is a conceptual diagram of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure; and

FIG. 56 is a conceptual diagram of a wash water distribution system in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments of the disclosure, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout. Where the term “configured” is used to describe any aspect of the disclosure, terms such as suitable for, adapted to, capable of, arranged to, operable to, provided to, etc., may also be applicable to describe that aspect of the disclosure.

FIG. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 2 is a view illustrating a lower portion of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1.

The entire structure of a dish washing machine in accordance with one embodiment of the disclosure will be generally described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2.

A dish washing machine 1 may include a main body 10 forming an outer appearance, a wash tank 30 disposed or placed within the main body 10, baskets 12a and 12b disposed or placed within the wash tank 30 to contain the dishes, spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340 configured to spray wash water, a sump 100 configured to store wash water, a circulation pump 51 configured to pump the wash water of the sump 100 and supply the wash water to the spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340, a drain pump 52 configured to drain the wash water of the sump 100 along with debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) which may flow into the drain pump 52 out of the main body 10, a vane 400 configured to move within the wash tank 30 and reflect the wash water toward the dishes, and a driving device 420 configured to drive the vane 400.

The wash tank 30 may have a roughly box shape with a front opening so as to load or unload the dishes. The front opening of the wash tank 30 may be opened and closed by a door 11. The wash tank 30 may have an upper wall 31, a rear wall 32, a left wall 33, a right wall 34, and a bottom plate 35.

The baskets 12a and 12b may be wire racks including grids, which may prevent wash water from collecting and allow the wash water to pass therethrough. The baskets 12a and 12b may be disposed or placed to be capable of being

attached to or detached from an inside of the wash tank 30. The baskets 12a and 12b may include an upper basket 12a disposed in an upper portion of the wash tank 30, and a lower basket 12b disposed in a lower portion of the wash tank 30.

The spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340 may spray wash water under a high pressure and wash the dishes. The spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340 may include an upper rotation nozzle 311 disposed or placed in an upper portion of the wash tank 30, a middle rotation nozzle 313 disposed or placed in the center of the wash tank 30, and fixing nozzles 330 and 340 disposed or placed in a lower portion of the wash tank 30.

The upper rotation nozzle 311 may be disposed or placed above the upper basket 12a and spray wash water downward while rotating due to a water pressure. To this end, spray holes 312 may be disposed or placed in a lower end of the upper rotation nozzle 311. The upper rotation nozzle 311 may directly spray the wash water toward the dishes contained in the upper basket 12a.

The middle rotation nozzle 313 may be disposed or placed between the upper basket 12a and the lower basket 12b and spray the wash water upward and downward while rotating due to a water pressure. To this end, spray holes 314 may be disposed or placed at upper and lower ends of the middle rotation nozzle 313. The middle rotation nozzle 313 may directly spray the wash water toward the dishes contained in the upper basket 12a and the lower basket 12b.

The fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may be disposed or placed not to move (i.e., be stationary), unlike the rotation nozzles 311 and 313, and fixed to one side of the wash tank 30. For example, the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may be disposed roughly adjacent to the rear wall 32 of the wash tank 30, and spray wash water toward the front of the wash tank 30. Accordingly, the wash water sprayed by the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may not be directly sprayed toward the dishes, and instead the wash water sprayed by the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may be redirected by the vane 400 as explained below.

The wash water sprayed by the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may be reflected by the vane 400 toward the dishes. The fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may be disposed under the lower basket 12b, and the vane 400 may reflect the wash water sprayed by the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 upward. That is, the wash water sprayed by the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may be reflected by the vane 400 toward the dishes contained in the lower basket 12b.

The fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may respectively have a plurality of spray holes 331 and 341 arranged in a lateral direction of the wash tank 30. The plurality of spray holes 331 and 341 may spray wash water forward. As shown in FIG. 2, there are three spray holes 331 and three spray holes 341. However, the disclosure is not so limited and there may be less than or more than three spray holes for each fixing nozzle. The spray holes may be evenly or regularly distributed, and/or may of the same size, or the spray holes may be irregularly distributed, and/or may of a different size.

The vane 400 may be elongated in the lateral direction of the wash tank 30 to totally reflect the wash water sprayed from the plurality of spray holes 331 and 341 of the fixing nozzles 330 and 340. That is, one lengthwise end portion of the vane 400 may be adjacent to a left wall 33 of the wash tank 30, and the other lengthwise end portion of the vane 400 may be adjacent to a right wall 34 of the wash tank 30.

The vane 400 may linearly reciprocate along a direction in which wash water is sprayed from the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 (e.g., move in a back and forth direction). That is,

the vane 400 may linearly reciprocate in forward and backward directions of the wash tank 30.

Accordingly, a linear spray structure including the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 and the vane 400 may wash an entire region of the wash tank 30 without blind spots. The fixing nozzles 330 and 340 are distinguished from rotation nozzles that may spray wash water only within a range of a rotation radius.

The fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may include a left fixing nozzle 330 disposed on the left side of the wash tank 30, and a right fixing nozzle 340 disposed on the right side of the wash tank 30. However, the disclosure is not so limited and there may be more than two fixing nozzles disposed in the dish washing machine. Further, there may be more than two fixing nozzles which are disposed adjacent to one another.

As described below, the rotation nozzles 311 and 313 and the fixing nozzles 330 and 340 may spray wash water independent of each other. Furthermore, the left fixing nozzle 330 and the right fixing nozzle 340 also may spray wash water independent of each other.

The wash water sprayed from the left fixing nozzle 330 may be reflected by the vane 400 only to a left region of the wash tank 30, while the wash water sprayed from the right fixing nozzle 340 may be reflected by the vane 400 only to a right region of the wash tank 30.

Accordingly, the dish washing machine 1 may divide the wash tank 30 into the left and right regions and wash the left and right regions of the wash tank 30 independently. Naturally, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, the wash tank 30 may not necessarily be divided into the left and right regions but may be further subdivided and washed if needed. For example, there may be more than two fixing nozzles which are disposed adjacent to one another and the number of regions which are washed may correspond to the number of fixing nozzles (e.g., for the case of three fixing nozzles, there may be a left region, central region, and a right region). Alternatively, it may be possible that some of the wash water sprayed from a fixing nozzle of the dish washing machine 1 may be reflected by the vane into a region which is primarily washed by wash water sprayed from another nozzle and reflected by the vane.

Components of the dish washing machine 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be further described in detail.

FIG. 3 is a view of a flow path structure of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 4 is an exploded view of a fixing nozzle assembly of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the fixing nozzle assembly of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1.

Operations, a flow path structure, a fixing nozzle assembly, and a wash water distribution structure of a dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 through 5.

The dish washing machine may perform one or more of a water supplying operation, a washing operation, a draining operation, and a drying operation.

In the water supplying operation, wash water may be supplied through a water supply pipe (not shown) into the wash tank 30. The wash water supplied to the wash tank 30 may flow into the sump 100 disposed or placed under the wash tank 30 due to a gradient of the bottom plate 35 of the wash tank 30, and be stored in the sump 100.

In the washing operation, the circulation pump 51 may be operated to pump the wash water of the sump 100. The wash water pumped by the circulation pump 51 may be distributed to the rotation nozzles 311 and 313, the left fixing nozzle

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330, and the right fixing nozzle 340 by means of a distribution device 200. Due to the pumping force of the circulation pump 51, the wash water may be sprayed from the spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340 under a high pressure to wash the dishes.

Herein, the upper rotation nozzle 311 and the middle rotation nozzle 313 may receive wash water from the distribution device 200 through a second hose 271b. The left fixing nozzle 330 may receive wash water from the distribution device 200 through a first hose 271a. The right fixing nozzle 340 may receive wash water from the distribution device 200 through a third hose 271c.

According to an aspect of the disclosure, the distribution device 200 may be disposed or placed to have four distribution modes.

In a first mode, the distribution device 200 supplies wash water through the second hose 271b only into the rotation nozzles 311 and 313.

In a second mode, the distribution device 200 supplies wash water through the third hose 271c only into the right fixing nozzle 340.

In a third mode, the distribution device 200 supplies wash water through the first hose 271a and the third hose 271c only into the left fixing nozzle 330 and the right fixing nozzle 340.

In a fourth mode, the distribution device 200 supplies wash water through the first hose 271a only into the left fixing nozzle 330.

However, the distribution device 200 may have a larger number of distribution modes than four distribution modes, or may have less than four distribution modes.

The wash water sprayed from the spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340 may remove, food, dirt, or other types of debris clinging to the dishes while beating (spraying) the dishes, fall along with the food, dirt, or other types of debris, and be stored in the sump 100 again. The circulation pump 51 may pump again and circulate the wash water stored in the sump 100. During the washing operation, the circulation pump 51 may be repetitively driven and stopped several times. In this process, the dirt, food, or other types of debris that has fallen to the sump 100 along with the wash water may be captured by a filter mounted in the sump 100 and remain in the sump 100 so that it does not circulate into the spray nozzles 311, 313, 330, and 340.

In the draining operation, the drain pump 52 may be operated to drain the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) and the wash water remaining in the sump 100 and the wash water out of the main body 10.

In the drying operation, a heater (not shown) mounted in the wash tank 30 may be operated to dry the dishes.

Structures of the left fixing nozzle 330 and the right fixing nozzle 340 will be described in detail.

The left fixing nozzle 330 may include one or more spray holes 331 configured to spray wash water, a nozzle flow path 332 configured to supply the wash water to the spray holes 331, a nozzle inflow port 333 into which wash water flows through a nozzle flow path 332, a nozzle body 334 forming an outer appearance, a nozzle cover 335 combined with the rear of the nozzle body 334 to form the nozzle flow path 332, an ornamental member 336 combined with the front of the nozzle body 334, and a coupling hole 337 formed in the nozzle body 334 to combine the left fixing nozzle 330 with a bottom plate cover (refer to 600 in FIG. 19) to be described later.

The right fixing nozzle 340 may include one or more spray holes 341 configured to spray wash water, a nozzle flow path 342 configured to supply wash water to the spray

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holes 3410, a nozzle inflow port 343 into which wash water flows through the nozzle flow path 342, a nozzle body 344 forming an outer appearance, a nozzle cover 345 combined with the rear of the nozzle body 344 to form the nozzle flow path 342, an ornamental member 346 combined with the front of the nozzle body 344, and a coupling hole 347 formed in the nozzle body 344 to combine the right fixing nozzle 340 with the bottom plate cover 600 to be described later. As can be seen from FIG. 5, the coupling hole 337 of the left fixing nozzle 330 may be disposed adjacent to the coupling hole 347 of the right fixing nozzle 340.

Here, the nozzle body 334 of the left fixing nozzle 330 may be integrated with the nozzle body 344 of the right fixing nozzle 340. Thus, the left fixing nozzle 330 and the right fixing nozzle 340 may be an integral body.

By integrating the left fixing nozzle 330 with the right fixing nozzle 340, the left fixing nozzle 330 and the right fixing nozzle 340 may be easily aligned in a horizontal direction, and easily combined with the bottom plate cover 600.

A fixing nozzle assembly 320 may include the left fixing nozzle 330 and the right fixing nozzle 340. A nozzle assembly 300 may include the fixing nozzle assembly 320, the upper rotation nozzle 311, and the middle rotation nozzle 313.

FIG. 6 is a view of a distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 7 is an exploded view of a distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 8 is an exploded view of an opening/closing member of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 10 is an exploded view of portion A of FIG. 9.

A distribution device 200 of a dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. 6 through 10.

The distribution device 200 may be formed, manufactured, or configured to have a roughly cylindrical shape.

The distribution device 200 may include a housing 210 that has a roughly hollow cylindrical shape and forms an outer appearance, an opening/closing member 220 disposed or placed within the housing 210 to be capable of rotating, a motor 230 configured to rotate the opening/closing member 220, a support member 260 configured to support the motor 230 and the housing 210, a cam member 240 combined with the motor 230 and the opening/closing member 220 to rotate along with the opening/closing member 220, and a micro switch 250 contacted by the cam member 240 to detect a rotation position of the opening/closing member 220.

The housing 210 may be disposed to be elongated toward both sidewalls (refer to 33 and 34 in FIG. 2) of the wash tank 30. Hereinafter, a lengthwise direction of the housing 210 will be referred to as an axial direction. An inlet 211 through which wash water flows into the housing 210 is formed at one axial end portion of the housing 210. The motor 230 may be disposed at the other axial end portion of the housing 210.

Specifically, the inlet 211 may be disposed or placed such that it faces toward a right wall 34 of the wash tank 30. The circulation pump 51 may be connected to the inlet 211. Thus, when the circulation pump 51 is operated, the wash water stored in the sump 100 may flow through the inlet 211 into the housing 210.

A plurality of outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c may be formed in a circumferential surface of the housing 210. The plurality of outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c may be arranged at regular

intervals in an axial direction. The plurality of outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** may include a first outlet **212a**, a second outlet **212b**, and a third outlet **212c**. Alternatively, the plurality of outlets may be irregularly arranged. Additionally, or alternatively, the plurality of outlets may have the same or different diameters through which wash water flows.

Here, the plurality of outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** are may be disposed or placed such that they face toward the rear wall (refer to **32** in FIG. 2) of the wash tank **30**. The reason that the plurality of outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** may be disposed or placed to face toward the rear wall **32** of the wash tank **30** is that the housing **210** of the distribution device **200** in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure has a cylindrical shape and may be disposed to be elongated toward the both sidewalls **33** and **34** of the water tank **30**, and the opening/closing member **220** is configured to open and close the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** while rotating about an axial direction of the housing **210**.

In addition, since a distribution device typically used for a conventional dish washing machine may include a hemispherical housing and an opening/closing device having a flat panel disk shape, which is disposed or placed in an upper portion of the housing and capable of rotating, outlets may not help but being disposed or placed in the upper portion of the housing. That is, in a conventional distribution device, the outlet are placed in the upper portion of the housing to face toward a top of the dish washing machine. Thus, the flow path connected to the outlets is sharply curved backward as soon as the flow path starts from the outlets.

As described above, since the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** of the distribution device **200** in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure are disposed or placed to face toward the rear wall **32** of the wash tank **30**, loss of pressure of wash water supplied from the distribution device **200** into the fixing nozzles **330** and **340** disposed adjacent to the rear wall **32** of the wash tank **30** may be reduced.

The loss of pressure of wash water may be reduced because a flow path connecting the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** and the fixing nozzles **330** and **340** may be gently formed without a sharply curved portion.

In contrast, when a conventional distribution device in which outlets are disposed or placed toward an upper portion of the distribution device is applied to the fixing nozzles **330** and **340** in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure, a flow path connected to the outlets has to be sharply curved backward as soon as the flow path starts from the outlets, thereby causing a large loss of pressure.

The first outlet **212a**, the second outlet **212b**, and the third outlet **212c** may be sequentially arranged from the left side of the wash tank **30** to the right side thereof.

Specifically, the first outlet **212a** may be disposed relatively close to the left fixing nozzle **330**, the third outlet **212c** may be disposed relatively close to the right fixing nozzle **340**, and the second outlet **212b** may be disposed between (e.g., midway) between the first and third outlets **212a** and **212c**.

The first outlet **212a** may be connected to the left fixing nozzle **330** through the first hose (refer to **271a** in FIG. 3). The second outlet **212b** may be connected to the rotation nozzles **311** and **313** through the second hose (refer to **271b** in FIG. 3). The third outlet **212c** may be connected to the right fixing nozzle **340** through the third hose (refer to **271c** in FIG. 3).

As described above, since each of the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** is connected to one or more of the spray nozzles **311**, **313**, **330** and **340**, which are relatively close to the corresponding outlet, lengths of the hoses **271a**, **271b**, and

271c may be reduced, the hoses **271a**, **271b**, and **271c** may be prevented from being entangled, and/or loss of pressure of wash water may be reduced.

A sump coupling unit **213** to be combined with the sump **100** may be disposed or placed in the housing **210**, and a distribution device coupling unit (refer to **109** in FIG. 3) to be combined with the sump coupling unit **213** may be disposed or placed on the sump **100**. In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, the sump coupling unit **213** may be disposed or placed in a groove shape, and the distribution device coupling unit **109** may be disposed or placed in a protrusion shape. By coupling the sump coupling unit **213** to the distribution device coupling unit **109**, positions of the distribution device **200** and the sump **100** may be aligned.

The opening/closing member **220** selectively opens and closes the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** while rotating about the axial direction of the housing **210** within the housing **210**. Accordingly, the opening/closing member **220** substantially functions to distribute wash water to the spray nozzles **311**, **313**, **330**, and **340**.

The opening/closing member **220** may have a roughly or substantially hollow cylindrical shape. The opening/closing member **220** may include a rotation body **221** that rotates within the housing **210**, and sealing members **225** combined with the rotation body **221** to close the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c**.

Communication holes **222** may be formed in a circumferential surface of the rotation body **221**. The communication holes may be circular in shape, for example. However, the disclosure is not so limited and the communication holes may be differently shaped (e.g., oval, square, triangular, etc.). When the communication holes **222** are located in positions corresponding to the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c**, the communication holes **222** may allow wash water to flow out to the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c**.

Also, spacing protrusions **224** may be formed on the circumferential surface of the rotation body **221**. The spacing protrusions **224** may space an inner circumferential surface of the housing **210** a predetermined distance apart from an outer circumferential surface of the rotation body **221**. Thus, when the opening/closing member **220** rotates within the housing **210**, the spacing protrusions **224** may minimize friction between the opening/closing member **220** and the housing **210** and enable efficient rotation of the opening/closing member **220**. The inner circumferential surface of the housing **210** may always remain a predetermined distance apart from the outer circumferential surface of the rotation body **221** by the spacing protrusions **224**.

Furthermore, clasp holes **223** to be combined with the sealing members **225** may be formed in the circumferential surface of the rotation body **221**. Clasp protrusion units **227** of the sealing members **225** are combined with the clasp holes **223**. The clasp holes **223** may have respectively different shapes to correspond to the shape of the clasp protrusion units **227** of the sealing members **225**.

As an example, a clasp hole **223** in the center may have a roughly cross shape, and each of clasp holes **223** on both sides may have a straight shape. Similarly, a clasp protrusion unit **227** of a sealing member **225** in the center may have a cross shape, and each of clasp protrusion units **227** on both sides may have a straight shape.

By preparing the clasp holes **223** and the clasp protrusion units **227** in different shapes, when the sealing member **225** combined in the center has a different shape from the sealing members **225** combined on both sides, the sealing member **225** in the center may be easily discriminated from the sealing members **225** combined on both sides. Alternatively,

the sealing member 225 in the center may have clasp holes and clasp protrusion units with a straight shape and the other sealing members may have clasp holes and clasp protrusion units with cross shapes. Alternatively, different shapes may be used.

One of both axial end portions of the rotation body 221, which corresponds to the inlet 211 of the housing 210, is opened. A cam shaft coupling unit 229 to be combined with a cam shaft 241 of the cam member 240 may be disposed or placed at the other one of the both axial end portions of the rotation body 221.

The sealing members 225 may be combined with the circumferential surface of the rotation body 221 to close the outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c. The sealing members 225 may be combined with the clasp holes 223 of the rotation body 221. The sealing members 225 may be combined with the clasp holes 223 of the rotation body 221 to be capable of moving to some extent in a radial direction. Thus, the sealing members 225 may be closely adhered to the outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c to tighten the sealing of the outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c.

That is, the sealing members 225 move between an open position in which the sealing members 225 are closely adhered to the rotation body 221 and a closed position in which the sealing members 225 are closely adhered to the outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c. When wash water flows into the housing 210, the sealing members 225 may naturally move from the open position to the closed position due to a pressure of wash water. Accordingly, airtightness of the outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c may be improved to raise reliability of the distribution device 200.

Each of the sealing members 225 may include a sealing unit (refer to 226 in FIG. 8) having a curved surface shape to be closely adhered to the outlets 212a, 212b, and 212c, and a clasp protrusion unit 227 that protrudes from the sealing unit 226 and is inserted into the clasp hole 223 of the rotation body 221.

The clasp protrusion unit 227 and the clasp hole 223 may be disposed or placed to have a small gap such that the sealing member 225 is capable of moving in a radial direction. Also, a stopper unit 228 having a greater diameter than the clasp hole 223 may be formed at an end portion of the clasp protrusion unit 227 to prevent the sealing member 225 from being completely detached from the clasp hole 223.

The sealing member 225 may be formed as an integral type using a resin material. The sealing member 225 may be easily assembled with the rotation body 221 by applying strong power to the clasp protrusion unit 227 and inserting the clasp protrusion unit 227 into the clasp hole 223. After the sealing member 225 is assembled, the stopper unit 228 is caught in the clasp hole 223 but not detached from the rotation body 221 unless an external force is applied (e.g., by the hands of a user (e.g., a repairman)).

FIG. 11 is a side view of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, wherein a motor is omitted. FIG. 12 is an enlarged view of a cam member of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 13 is a view showing a relationship between on/off time points of a micro switch of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1 and a rotation position of an opening/closing member. FIG. 14 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash water is distributed only into rotation nozzles by opening only a second outlet. FIG. 15 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash

water is distributed only into right fixing nozzles by opening only a third outlet. FIG. 16 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash water is distributed only into left fixing nozzles and the right fixing nozzles by opening only a first outlet and the third outlet. FIG. 17 is a view illustrating an operation of the distribution device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, in which wash water is distributed only into the left fixing nozzles by opening only the first outlet.

Operations of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. 11 through 17.

When the motor 230 is operated, a driving force is transmitted by a motor shaft 231 to the cam member 240, and the cam member 240 rotates. The motor 230 may be a unidirectional motor that rotates in only one direction.

For brevity, it is assumed that the cam member 240 rotates about a rotation center 242 clockwise on the basis of FIG. 12. When the cam member 240 rotates, driving force is transmitted by the cam shaft 241 to the opening/closing member 220 so that the opening/closing member 220 may rotate together with the cam member 240. However, the disclosure is not so limited, and the cam member 240 may rotate in a different direction (e.g., counterclockwise).

A contact terminal 251 of the micro switch 250 may be disposed or placed in contact with the cam member 240. The cam member 240 may include convex units 243a, 243b, and 243c, which protrude in a radial direction, and concave units 244a, 244b, and 244c, which are depressed in the radial direction, to turn on and off the micro switch 250.

The convex units 243a, 243b, and 243c may include a first convex unit 243a, a second convex unit 243b, and a third convex unit 243c, which are sequentially arranged counterclockwise, and the concave units 244a, 244b, and 244c may include a first concave unit 244a, a second concave unit 244b, and a third concave unit 244c, which are sequentially arranged counterclockwise.

It is assumed that the micro switch 250 is turned on when the contact terminal 251 is contacted by the convex units 243a, 243b, and 243c of the cam member 240, and turned off when the contact terminal 251 is contacted by the concave units 244a, 244b, and 244c of the cam member 240. Accordingly, when the motor 230 is driven, the micro switch 250 may be alternately turned on and off.

Meanwhile, the distribution device 200 further may include a controller, which determines rotation positions of the opening/closing member 220 according to time points at which the micro switch 250 is turned on and off, and rotates the motor 230 or stops the rotation of the motor 230 such that the opening/closing member 220 rotates to a required specific rotation position from among the determined rotation positions. The controller may be configured by an electronic circuit and may include one or more processors.

As an example, as shown in FIG. 13, the controller may determine six rotation positions P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, and P6 of the opening/closing member 220.

The controller may designate a rotation position of the opening/closing member 220 in a time point when the micro switch 250 is turned off after the micro switch 250 is turned on for five minutes, as a first rotation position P1 of the six rotation positions P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, and P6 of the opening/closing member 220.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, since there is only one time point when the micro switch 250 is turned off after the micro switch 250 is turned on for five seconds, a section for which the micro switch 250 is turned on for five seconds may correspond to a reference reset section.

Also, in a time point when the micro switch **250** is turned on again after the micro switch **250** is turned on for about five seconds and turned off for about five seconds, the controller may designate a rotation position of the opening/closing member **220** as a second rotation position **P2**.

First through sixth rotation positions **P1** through **P6** may be designated in the above-described manner.

In the six rotation positions **P1**, **P2**, **P3**, **P4**, **P5**, and **P6** of the opening/closing member **220**, the contact terminal **251** of the micro switch **250** is located in contact terminal positions **T1**, **T2**, **T3**, **T4**, **T5**, and **T6** shown in FIG. **12**.

Information regarding the rotation positions of the opening/closing member **220** according to the time points when the micro switch **250** is turned on and off may be previously stored in a memory (for example, in a read-only memory (ROM) type) in the controller.

Also, information regarding opening and closing states of the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** of the distribution device **200** according to the respective rotation positions of the opening/closing member **220** and information regarding the spraying of the spray nozzles **311**, **313**, **330**, and **340** according to the opening and closing states of the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** may also be stored as a ROM type in the controller.

Accordingly, when a user inputs or selects a desired specific spray nozzle from among the spray nozzles **311**, **313**, **330**, and **340**, the controller may determine which ones of the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c** are to be opened or closed according to the user's input or selection, and determine a specific rotation position of the opening/closing member **220** based on the determined opening and closing states of the outlets **212a**, **212b**, and **212c**.

The controller may drive the motor **230** to rotate the opening/closing member **220** to a determined specific rotation position, and stop the driving of the motor **230** when the rotation of the opening/closing member **220** to the determined specific rotation position is completed.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, when the opening/closing member **220** is in the first rotation position **P1**, only the second outlet **212b** is opened as shown in FIG. **14**, and wash water may be distributed only to the rotation nozzles **311** and **313**.

When the opening/closing member **220** is in the second rotation position **P2**, only the third outlet **212c** is opened as shown in FIG. **15**, and wash water may be distributed only to the right fixing nozzle **340**.

The third and fourth rotation positions **P3** and **P4** of the opening/closing member **220** are not used.

When the opening/closing member **220** is in the fifth rotation position **P5**, only the first outlet **212a** and the third outlet **212c** are opened as shown in FIG. **16**, and wash water may be distributed only to the left fixing nozzle **330** and the right fixing nozzle **340**.

When the opening/closing member **220** is in the sixth rotation position **P6**, only the first outlet **212a** is opened as shown in FIG. **17**, and wash water may be distributed only to the left fixing nozzle **330**.

FIG. **18** is an exploded view of a bottom plate, a bottom plate cover, and a motor of a wash tank of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **19** is a cross-sectional view of the bottom plate, the bottom plate cover, and the motor of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **20** is an exploded view of a vane, a rail assembly, a spray nozzle assembly, and a bottom plate cover of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**.

A bottom plate cover of a dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. **18** through **20**.

The dish washing machine **1** may include the bottom plate cover **600** combined with one rear side of the bottom plate **35** of the wash tank **30**.

The bottom plate cover **600** may function to seal a motor through hole **37** and flow path through holes **38** formed in the bottom plate **35**, support the motor **530** configured to drive the vane **400**, and fix a rail assembly **430** of the dish washing machine **1** and the nozzle assembly **300**.

As described above, the nozzle assembly **300** may include the upper rotation nozzle **311**, the middle rotation nozzle **313**, the left fixing nozzle **330**, and the right fixing nozzle **340**.

The rail assembly **430** may guide movement of the vane **400**, and an example configuration of the rail assembly **430** will be described later.

A bottom plate protrusion **36** may be formed at the rear of the bottom plate **35** and protrude to be combined with the bottom plate cover **600**. A motor through hole **37** through which the motor **530** for driving the vane **400** passes, and flow path through holes **38** through which a flow path connecting the nozzle assembly **300** and the distribution device (refer to **200** in FIG. **3**) passes may be formed in the bottom plate protrusion **36**.

The motor **530** may be mounted on a bottom surface of the bottom plate cover **600**. When the bottom plate cover **600** is separated from the bottom plate **35**, the motor **530** may be withdrawn through the motor through hole **37** along with the bottom plate cover **600**.

For example, a plurality of hose connection units of the bottom plate cover **600** may pass through the flow path through holes **38**.

The bottom plate cover **600** may include a shaft through hole **640** through which a driving shaft **531** of the motor **530** passes, hose connection units that protrude downward to be combined with hoses **271a**, **271b**, and **271c** extending from the distribution device **200** and are inserted into the flow path through holes **38** of the bottom plate protrusion **36**, nozzle inflow port connection units **651a**, **651b**, and **651c** that protrude upward to be combined with inflow ports **315**, **333**, and **343** of the nozzle assembly **300**, connecting holes **620** configured to fix the nozzle assembly **300** and the rail assembly **430**, and one or more rotation guides **610** that protrude to guide the rotation of the vane **400**. As shown in FIGS. **18** and **19** hose connection units **652b** and **652c** correspond to hoses **271b** and **271c**. An additional hose connection unit which is not visible in the drawings also corresponds to hose **271a** and is disposed below nozzle inflow port connection units **651a**.

The bottom plate cover **600** may be closely combined with a top surface of the bottom plate protrusion **36**. Fixing caps **680** may be combined with the hose connection units of the bottom plate cover **600** so that the bottom plate cover **600** may be fixed to the bottom plate protrusion **36**.

A sealing member **670** may be disposed or placed between the bottom plate cover **600** and the bottom plate protrusion **36** to prevent wash water stored in the wash tank **30** from leaking through the motor through hole **37** and the flow path through holes **38** of the bottom plate protrusion **36**. The sealing member **670** may be formed of a rubber material for example.

A motor mounting unit **630** on which the motor **530** for driving the vane **400** is mounted may be disposed or placed on the bottom surface of the bottom plate cover **600**. The driving shaft **531** of the motor **530** may penetrate the shaft through hole **640** of the bottom plate cover **600** and protrude into the wash tank **30**. A driving pulley (refer to **500** in FIG.

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21) that will be described later may be combined with the driving shaft 531 of the motor 530 and rotate along with the driving shaft 531.

A sealing member 660 may be disposed or placed in the shaft through hole 640 to prevent wash water stored in the wash tank 30 from leaking through the shaft through hole 640. The sealing member 660 may be a mechanical sealing device configured to seal the shaft through hole 640 and may enable efficient rotation of the driving shaft 531. As can be seen from FIG. 19, a portion of the shaft 531 may protrude through the shaft through hole 640 and the sealing member 660.

A top surface of the bottom plate cover 600 may be inclined at a predetermined angle (refer to θ in FIG. 19) based on a reference horizontal surface (refer to H in FIG. 19).

The top surface of the bottom plate cover 600 may be inclined to prevent the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) from being accumulated on the bottom plate cover 600 or proceeding toward the fixing spray nozzles 330 and 340. In the dish washing machine 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure, since the fixing spray nozzles 330 and 340 do not move unlike the rotation nozzles 311 and 313, the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) may remain and accumulate. Thus, the accumulation of the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) may be prevented by the above-described structure.

An inclination angle θ formed by the top surface of the bottom plate cover 600 with the reference horizontal surface H may be about 3° or more.

Also, an end portion of the bottom plate cover 600 may be spaced a predetermined distance (refer to S in FIG. 19) apart from the bottom plate 35 because it is difficult to completely adhere the bottom plate cover 600 to the bottom plate 35 due to manufacturing and assembling errors. In this case, however, the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) may be prevented from being caught in a fine gap between the end portion of the bottom plate cover 600 and the bottom plate 35. The distance S between the end portion of the bottom plate cover 600 and the bottom plate 35 may be about 5 mm or more.

The rail assembly 430 and the nozzle assembly 300 may be combined with the bottom plate cover 600. The bottom plate cover 600, the rail assembly 430, and the nozzle assembly 300 may be tightly fixed by a connecting member 690. To this end, connecting holes (coupling holes) 620, 453, 337, and 347 may be respectively formed in the corresponding positions of the bottom plate cover 600, rail assembly 430, and the nozzle assembly 300. The connecting member 690 may include one or more screws, for example. A connecting member may also include, for example, a bolt, a pin, a rivet, an anchor, an adhesive, and the like.

Due to the above-described structure, the rail assembly 430 and the nozzle assembly 300 may be fixed to and aligned with each other.

In the dish washing machine 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure, wash water sprayed from the fixing spray nozzles 330 and 340 of the nozzle assembly 300 may not be directly sprayed toward the dishes but reflected by the vane 400 combined with the rail assembly 430 and sprayed toward the dishes. Thus, positions of the fixing spray nozzles 330 and 340 and the rail assembly 430 should preferably be precisely aligned, and this requirement or preference may be satisfied by the above-described combining structure.

FIG. 21 is a view of the vane and a driving device of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1, which is an exploded view of the driving device. FIG. 22 is a view of a belt and a belt

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holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 23 is a cross-sectional view of a rail, the belt, the belt holder, and a vane holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 24 is a view of the rail, the belt, a driving pulley, and a rear holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 25 is a cross-sectional view of the rail, the belt, the driving pulley, and the rear holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 26 is a view of the rail, the belt, an idle pulley, and a front holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1. FIG. 27 is a cross-sectional view of the rail, the belt, the idle pulley, and the front holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. 1.

A vane of a dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure and a driving device thereof will be described with reference to FIGS. 21 through 27.

The dish washing machine 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure may include a vane 400 configured to reflect wash water sprayed from fixing nozzles 330 and 340. The vane 400 may linearly reciprocate (move) in a direction in which wash water is sprayed from the fixing spray nozzles 330 and 340 and/or in a direction which is opposite to a direction in which wash water is sprayed from the fixing spray nozzles 330 and 340.

The dish washing machine 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure may include the driving device 420 configured to linearly reciprocate the vane 400.

The driving device 420 may include a motor 530 configured to generate a driving force and a rail assembly 430 configured to guide movement of the vane 400.

The rail assembly 430 may include a rail 440 configured to guide movement of the vane 400 and having an inner space 441, a driving pulley 500 connected to the motor 530 and configured to rotate, a belt 520 connected to the driving pulley 500, configured to rotate, and disposed in the inner space 441 of the rail 440, an idle pulley 510 connected to the belt 520 to rotatably support the belt 520, a belt holder 480 disposed in the inner space 441 of the rail 400 to combine with the belt 520 and linearly reciprocate, a vane holder 490 disposed outside the rail 400 to combine with the belt holder 480 and linearly reciprocate, wherein the vane holder 490 is combined with the vane 400, a rear holder 450 configured to rotatably support the driving pulley 500 and combined with a rear end portion of the rail 440, and a front holder 460 configured to rotatably support the idle pulley 510 and combined with a front end portion of the rail 440.

The rail 440 may be formed of a metal material. The rail 440 may be elongated in forward and backward directions and may be disposed or positioned midway between the left and right walls 33 and 34 of the wash tank 30.

The rail 440 may have a pipe shape in which an opening 445 is formed in a roughly lower portion. That is, the rail 440 may include the inner space 441, an upper wall 442, a lower wall 444, both sidewalls 443, and the opening 445 formed in the lower wall 444. The lower opening 445 may extend from one lengthwise end portion of the rail 440 to the other lengthwise end portion thereof.

The rail 440 may be disposed or placed in the pipe shape and the belt 520 may be disposed in the inner space 441 of the rail 400 so that the belt 520 may be prevented from being contacted by the dishes of the wash tank 30 and stopped and/or may be prevented from being contacted by wash water of the wash tank 30 and corroding.

The opening 445 may be formed in the lower wall 444 of the rail 440 so that the belt 520 disposed in the inner space 441 of the rail 440 may be connected to the vane 400 disposed or placed outside the rail 400 to transmit a driving force of the belt 520 to the vane 400.

The belt **520** may be wound with the driving pulley **500** and the idle pulley **510** and may form a closed curve. When the motor **530** is driven, the belt **520** may rotate in a direction in which the motor **530** rotates. The belt **520** may be formed of a resin material containing aramid fiber in consideration of tensile strength and cost, for example.

A tooth form **521** may be formed on an inner side surface of the belt **520** and transmit driving force of the belt **520** to the belt holder **480**.

Similar to the belt **520**, the belt holder **480** may be disposed in the inner space **441** of the rail **400**, and may combine with the tooth form **521** of the belt **520** and move along with the belt **520**. To this end, the belt holder **480** may have a tooth-form coupling unit **481** that is combined with the tooth form **521** of the belt **520**.

Also, the belt holder **480** may include legs **482** and **483** supported by the rail **400**. The legs **482** and **483** may include at least one lateral leg **482**, which protrudes sideward and is supported by the sidewalls **443** of the rail **400**, and at least one lower leg **483**, which protrudes downward and is supported by the lower wall **444** of the rail **400**.

The lateral legs **482** may be disposed or placed to be capable of elastic deformation to reduce noise and oscillation caused by collision and friction between the belt holder **480** and the rail **400** during movement of the belt holder **480**, and enable efficient movement of the belt holder **480**.

The lateral legs **482** may be a plate-spring-type elastic material. That is, each of the lateral legs **482** may have a curved plate that is elastically deformed between a relaxed shape and a compressed shape.

Also, the belt holder **480** may have a connecting unit **484** to be combined with the vane holder **490**. The connecting unit **484** may include a connecting hole **485** into which a connecting member **496** may be inserted. The connecting member **496** may include one or more screws, for example. A connecting member may also include, for example, a bolt, a pin, a rivet, an anchor, an adhesive, and the like.

The vane holder **490** may be combined with the belt holder **480** and move along with the belt holder **480** and transmit a driving force of the belt holder **480** to the vane **400**. The vane holder **490** may be disposed or placed to surround an outer side surface of the rail **440**.

The vane holder **490** may be combined with the belt holder **480** through the lower opening **445** of the rail **440**. To this end, the vane holder **490** may have a connecting hole **491** to be combined with the belt holder **480**. Accordingly, the vane holder **490** may be combined with the belt holder **480** by connecting the connecting hole **491** of the vane holder **490** and the connecting hole **485** of the belt holder **480** with the connecting member **496**. The connecting member **496** may include one or more screws, for example. A connecting member may also include, for example, a bolt, a pin, a rivet, an anchor, an adhesive, and the like.

The connecting member **496** may proceed upward from below and be sequentially connected to the connecting hole **491** of the vane holder **490** and the connecting hole **485** of the belt holder **480**.

A coupling protrusion **493** with which the vane **400** is detachably combined may be formed on the vane holder **490**. The coupling protrusion **493** may include a coupling axial unit **494**, which protrudes sideward, and a separation preventing unit **495** formed in an end portion of the coupling axial unit **494** to prevent separation of the vane **400**. With reference to FIG. **28** the separation preventing unit **495** may have a greater diameter than coupling axial unit **494**. The coupling protrusion **493** may be disposed on and protrude from one or both sides of the vane holder **490**. The coupling

protrusion **493** may protrude outward from the vane holder **490** toward the left and/or right sides of the wash tank **30**.

The driving pulley **500** may include a rotation axis **501**, a shaft connecting unit **503** connected to the driving shaft **531** of the motor **530** to receive driving force, and a belt coupling unit **502** with which the belt **520** is combined.

With reference to FIGS. **24** and **25**, the rear holder **450** may rotatably support the driving pulley **500** and combine with the rear end portion of the rail **440**. The rear holder **450** may include a pulley support surface **451** configured to support the rotation axis **501** of the driving pulley **500**, a rail support surface **452** configured to support the rear end portion of the rail **440**, and connecting holes (coupling holes) **453** to be combined with the bottom plate cover **600**.

With reference to FIGS. **26** and **27**, the idle pulley **510** may include a rotation axis **511** and a belt coupling unit **512** with which the belt **520** is combined.

The front holder **460** may include a front top holder **461**, a front bottom holder **465** to be combined with a lower portion of the front top holder **461**, and a pulley bracket **467** disposed or placed between the front top holder **461** and the front bottom holder **465** to be capable of moving in a lengthwise direction of the rail **440**. The pulley bracket **467** rotatably supports the idle pulley **510**.

The front top holder **461** may include a pulley support surface **462** configured to support the rotation axis **511** of the idle pulley **510**, and a rail support surface **463** configured to support the front end portion of the rail **440**.

The front bottom holder **465** may be combined with the lower portion of the front top holder **461** by a clasp structure. The front bottom holder **465** may have a coupling protrusion **466** to be combined with the bottom plate **35** of the wash tank **30**.

The pulley bracket **467** may include a pulley support surface **468** configured to support the rotation axis **511** of the idle pulley **510**.

Meanwhile, the rail **440**, the belt **520**, the driving pulley **500**, the rear holder **450**, the idle pulley **510**, and the front holder **460** may be assembled with one another due to tension of the belt **520**.

That is, the driving pulley **500** may be applied with pressure due to the tension of the belt **520** in a direction in which the driving pulley **500** approaches to the rail **400**, and the applied pressure may be transmitted to the rear holder **450** by the pulley support surface **451** of the rear holder **450**. As a result, the rear holder **450** is closely combined with the rear end portion of the rail **440**.

Also, the idle pulley **510** may be applied with pressure due to the tension of the belt **520** in a direction in which the idle pulley **510** approaches to the rail **440**, and the applied pressure may be transmitted to the front holder **460** by the pulley support surface **462** of the front holder **460**. As a result, the front holder **460** is closely combined with the front end portion of the rail **440**.

Meanwhile, the front holder **460** may further include an elastic member **470** for maintaining the tension of the belt **520**. When the belt **520** thermally expands due to inner heat of the wash tank **30**, the belt **520** extends to reduce the tension of the belt **520**. When the tension of the belt **520** is reduced, the vane **400** may not be efficiently driven.

One end portion of the elastic member **470** may be supported by the front holder **460**, and the other end portion of the elastic member **470** may be supported by the pulley bracket **467**. To this end, elastic member support surfaces **464** and **469** may be respectively formed on the front holder **460** and the pulley bracket **467**.

For example, the elastic member **470** may be a compression spring. Since the front holder **460** is supported at the rail **440** by the rail support surface **463**, elastic force of the elastic member **470** may act on the pulley bracket **467**. That is, the pulley bracket **467** may be applied with pressure far away from the rail **440** due to the elastic force of the elastic member **470**.

In this case, since the pulley bracket **467** is applied with pressure due to the tension of the belt **520** in the direction in which the pulley bracket **467** approaches to the rail **440**, the pulley bracket **467** moves to a position in which the balance is kept between the tension of the belt **520** and the elastic force of the elastic member **470**.

That is, when the belt **520** extends to reduce tension and the elastic force of the elastic member **470** becomes higher than the tension of the belt **520**, the pulley bracket **467** moves far away from the rail **440** due to the elastic force of the elastic member **470**. Thus, when the pulley bracket **467** moves far away from the rail **440**, the belt **520** is tightly stretched again and the tension of the belt **520** is restored.

Due to the above-described structure, even if the belt **520** is extended due to thermal expansion, the belt **520** is pulled by moving the pulley bracket **467** so that the tension of the belt **520** may be maintained constant and reliability of the driving device **420** may be improved.

The assembling order of the rail assembly **430** of the dish washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described.

As shown in FIG. **22**, the belt holder **480** may be combined with the belt **520**.

As shown in FIG. **23**, an assembly of the belt **520** and the belt holder **480** may be disposed in the inner space **441** of the rail **440**. Next, the vane holder **490** may be combined with the assembly of the belt **520** and the belt holder **480** using the connecting member **496**.

As shown in FIG. **24**, the rear holder **450** may be assembled with a lengthwise rear end portion of the rail **440**. Next, the driving pulley **500** may be combined with the belt **520**.

As shown in FIG. **26**, the front top holder **461** may be combined with a lengthwise front end portion of the rail **440**. Next, the belt **520**, the idle pulley **510**, the pulley bracket **467**, and the elastic member **470** are combined. Next, an assembly of the belt **520**, the idle pulley **510**, the pulley bracket **467**, and the elastic member **470** is pushed into the front top holder **461**. Next, the front bottom holder **465** is combined with the front top holder **461**.

FIG. **28** is a view of the vane and the vane holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **29** is a perspective view of the vane of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **30** is an exploded view of the vane and a portion of the vane holder of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**.

A vane in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. **28** through **30**.

The vane **400** may be elongated in a vertical direction with respect to the rail **440**.

The vane **400** may include a reflection unit **401** configured to reflect wash water sprayed from the fixing nozzles **330** and **340**, an upper support unit **410** formed by bending the reflection unit **401**, a rear support unit **411** formed by bending the upper support unit **410**, a cap unit **404** disposed or placed in a lengthwise central portion of the reflection unit **401**, a rotation clasp unit **409** disposed or placed to interface with the rotation guide (refer to **610** in FIG. **31**) of the bottom plate cover **600**, reinforcing ribs **414** disposed or placed to reinforce the strengths of the reflection unit **401**,

the upper support unit **410**, and the rear support unit **411**, a horizontal support **412** supported by the top surface of the vane holder **490**, and vertical supports **413** supported by side surfaces of the vane holder **490**.

The reflection unit **401** may include reflection surfaces **402a** and **402b** disposed or placed aslant to reflect wash water. The reflection surfaces **402a** and **402b** may include a reflection surface **402a** and a reflection surface **402b** that have different inclinations to vary angles at which the wash water is reflected, and may be alternately arranged in a lengthwise direction. As shown in FIG. **28** there may be three reflection surfaces **402b**, however the disclosure is not so limited. For example, there may be no reflection surfaces **402b**, one, two, or more than three reflection surfaces **402b**.

The cap unit **404** may include a coupling groove **405** to be combined with the vane holder **490**, and a rotation stopper unit **408** configured to limit a rotation range of the vane **400** when the vane **400** is rotated by the rotation guide **610** of the bottom plate cover **600**.

The coupling protrusion **493** of the vane holder **490** may be combined with the coupling groove **405** of the vane **400**. For example, the coupling axial unit **494** of the coupling protrusion **493** may be inserted into the coupling groove **405** of the vane **400**. The coupling axial unit **494** may rotatably support the vane **400**.

As shown in FIG. **30**, the coupling groove **405** of the vane **400** may be formed by elastic hooks **407**. While the coupling axial unit **494** of the vane holder **490** is being pushed into or extracted from the coupling groove **405** of the vane **400**, the elastic hooks **407** are elastically deformed apart from each other. When the insertion or detachment of the coupling axial unit **494** of the vane holder **490** is completed, the elastic hooks **407** may be restored to an original state. In the above-described structure, the vane **400** may be mounted on or detached from the vane holder **490**.

Rollers **415** may be disposed or placed at both lengthwise end portions of the vane **400** to enable smooth movement of the vane **400**. Roller support units (refer to **39** in FIG. **47**) for supporting the rollers **415** may be disposed or placed at the bottom plate **35** of the wash tank **30**.

FIGS. **31** through **33** are views illustrating a rotation operation of the vane of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **34** is a view illustrating an operation of, by a vane, reflecting wash water in a vane movement section of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **35** is a view illustrating an operation of, by the vane, reflecting wash water in a vane non-movement section of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**.

A movement section, a non-movement section, and a rotation operation of a vane in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. **31** through **35**.

In the dish washing machine **1** in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure, the vane **400** reflects wash water sprayed from the fixing spray nozzles **330** and **340**, toward the dishes. Since the fixing spray nozzles **330** and **340** spray wash water in a roughly horizontal direction, the fixing spray nozzles **330** and **340** and the vane **400** are disposed roughly parallel to each other. Accordingly, the vane **400** may be restricted from moving in a region in which the fixing spray nozzles **330** and **340** are disposed.

For example, with reference to FIG. **34** and FIG. **35** the dish washing machine **1** may include a vane movement section **11** in which the vane **400** may move, and a vane non-movement section **12** in which the vane **400** may be restricted from moving.

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The vane **400** of the dish washing machine **1** in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure may be rotatably disposed or placed (e.g., at a predetermined angle) to wash the dishes contained in the vane non-movement section **12**.

As described above, the rotation guide **610** may be formed in the bottom plate cover **600** and may protrude to guide movement of the vane **400**, and the rotation clasp unit **409** may be formed in the vane **400** to interfere with the rotation guide **610**. The rotation clasp unit **409** may form a rotation axis of the vane **400** and simultaneously, be formed at a higher level than the coupling protrusion **493** of the vane holder **490** configured to transmit driving force to the vane **400**.

The rotation guide **610** may include a guide surface **611**, which is contacted by the rotation clasp unit **409** and forms a curved surface to enable efficient rotation of the vane **400**.

When the vane **400** comes from the vane movement section **11** to the vane non-movement section **12** and the rotation clasp unit **409** of the vane **400** is interfered with the guide surface **611** of the rotation guide **610** of the bottom plate cover **600**, the vane **400** rotates about the coupling protrusion **493** of the vane holder **490**. For example, when the vane **400** moves toward the rear wall **32** and the rotation clasp unit **409** of the vane **400** is interfered with the guide surface **611** of the rotation guide **610**, the vane **400** may rotate forward or toward the rear wall **32**. Due to the rotation of the vane **400**, the direction or angle of the wash water which is reflected by the vane **400** may be changed compared to the direction or angle of the wash water which is reflected by the vane **400** before the rotation clasp unit **409** of the vane **400** is interfered with the guide surface **611** of the rotation guide **610**. Accordingly, the vane **400** reflects wash water toward the dishes contained in the non-movement section **12**.

FIG. **36** is a view illustrating a sump, a coarse filter, and a fine filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **37** is an exploded view of a sump, a coarse filter, a fine filter, and a micro filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **38** is a cross-sectional view taken along line I-I of FIG. **36**. FIG. **39** is an exploded view of portion B of FIG. **38**. FIG. **40** is a cross-sectional view taken along line 11-11 of FIG. **38**. FIG. **41** is an exploded view of portion C of FIG. **40**. FIG. **42** is a plan view of the sump and the coarse filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**, which illustrates a locking operation of the coarse filter. FIG. **43** is a side view of the coarse filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **44** is a view of the sump and the coarse filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**, which illustrates the locking operation of the coarse filter. FIG. **45** is a cross-sectional view of the sump, the coarse filter, and a micro filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **46** is an exploded plan view of the coarse filter and a portion of the micro filter of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**. FIG. **47** is a plan view of a lower portion of a wash tank of the dish washing machine of FIG. **1**.

The dish washing machine **1** in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure may include the sump **100** configured to store wash water, the circulation pump **51** configured to circulate wash water of the sump **100** into the spray nozzles **311,313,330** and **340**, the drain pump **52** configured to drain the wash water of the sump **100** along with the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) out of the main body **10**, and filters **120**, **130**, and **140** configured to filter the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) contained in the wash water.

A drainer (refer to **50** in FIG. **47**) for draining wash water into the sump **100** is formed in the bottom plate **35** of the

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wash tank **30**. The bottom plate **35** of the wash tank **30** may be inclined toward the drainer **50** such that wash water is guided toward the drainer **50** due to self-weight of the wash water (i.e., due to the force of gravity).

The sump **100** may have a hemispherical shape having a roughly or substantially open top surface. The sump **100** may include a bottom portion **101**, a sidewall portion **103**, a water storage chamber **110** formed on the bottom portion **101** and the sidewall portion **103** to store wash water, a circulation port **107** connected to the circulation pump **51**, and a drain port **108** connected to the drain pump **52**.

The filters **120**, **130**, and **140** may include a fine filter **120** mounted at the drainer **50** of the bottom plate **35**, and a coarse filter **140** and a micro filter **130** mounted at the sump **100**.

The coarse filter **140** may have a roughly cylindrical shape. The coarse filter **140** may be mounted in an inner side surface of the sidewall portion **103** of the sump **100**.

The coarse filter **140** may have a filter unit **142** configured to filter debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) having a relatively large size and a handle **141** for mounting the coarse filter **140**. The filter unit **142** of the coarse filter **140** may be formed at a circumferential surface of the coarse filter **140**.

The coarse filter **140** may penetrate a through hole **139** of the micro filter **130** and a through hole **122** of the fine filter **120** and may be mounted on the sump **100**. An upper portion of the coarse filter **140** may protrude into the wash tank **30**, and a lower portion of the coarse filter **140** may protrude into a debris capturing chamber **111** of the sump **100**. The debris capturing chamber **111** will be described below.

The fine filter **120** may have a filter unit **121** configured to filter debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) having a relatively medium size or larger, and a through hole **122** through which the coarse filter **140** passes. The fine filter **120** may be mounted on the drainer **50** of the bottom plate **35** of the wash tank **30** in a roughly horizontal direction. The fine filter **120** may be inclined such that wash water is guided toward the through hole **122** due to self-weight of the wash water (i.e., due to the force of gravity).

The wash water of the wash tank **30** may flow toward the coarse filter **140** along the inclined fine filter **120**. However, some wash water and the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) may pass through the filter unit **121** of the fine filter **120** and directly flow into the water storage chamber **110** of the sump **100**.

The micro filter **130** may have a filter unit **131** configured to filter debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) having a relatively small size or larger and having a flat shape, frames **132**, **133**, and **135** configured to support the filter unit **131**, and a through hole **139** through which the coarse filter **140** passes.

The frames **132**, **133**, and **135** may include an upper frame **132**, a lower frame **133**, and side frames **135**. The micro filter **130** may be mounted on the sump **100** such that the lower frame **133** is closely adhered to the bottom portion **101** of the sump **100** and the side frames **135** are closely adhered to the sidewall portion **103** of the sump **100**.

The micro filter **130** may divide the water storage chamber **110** of the sump **100** into the debris capturing chamber **111** and a circulation chamber **112**. As shown in FIG. **38** for example, the debris capturing chamber **111** may be disposed closer to the drain pump **52** than the circulation chamber **112**. The circulation chamber **111** may be disposed closer to the circulation pump **51** than the debris capturing chamber **111**.

The drain pump **52** may be connected to the debris capturing chamber **111**, and the circulation pump **51** may be connected to the circulation chamber **112**.

As described above, since the lower portion of the coarse filter **140** is disposed or placed to protrude into the debris capturing chamber **111**, wash water and the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) contained in the wash water that have passed through the coarse filter **140** flow into the debris capturing chamber **111**.

The wash water that has flowed into the debris capturing chamber **111** may pass through the micro filter **130** and flow into the circulation chamber **112**. However, since the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) contained in the wash water, which has flowed in the debris capturing chamber **111**, may not pass through the micro filter **130**, the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) may not flow into the circulation chamber **112** but remains in the dirt capturing chamber **111**.

The debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) captured in the dirt capturing chamber **111** may be drained along with the wash water out of the main body **10** when the drain pump **52** is driven.

Meanwhile, the micro filter **130** may be closely adhered to the bottom portion **101** and the sidewall portion **103** of the sump **100** to prevent the debris (e.g., food, dirt, etc.) of the dirt capturing chamber **111** from flowing through a gap between the micro filter **130** and the sump **100** into the circulation chamber **112**.

To this end, a lower sealing groove **134** may be formed in the lower frame **133** of the micro filter **130**, and a side sealing protrusion **136** may be formed on the side frame **135** such that it protrudes toward sidewall portion **103**. To correspond to the lower sealing groove **134** and the side sealing protrusion **136**, a lower sealing protrusion **102** may be formed on the bottom portion **101** of the sump **100** and inserted into the lower sealing groove **134**, and a side sealing groove **104** into which the side sealing protrusion **136** is inserted may be formed in the sidewall portion **103** of the sump **100**.

Sealing between the micro filter **130** and the sump **100** may be reinforced by using the lower sealing protrusion **102** and side sealing protrusion **136** and the lower sealing groove **134** and the side sealing groove **103**.

Meanwhile, after the coarse filter **140** is inserted into the sump **100** vertically downward, the coarse filter **140** may be rotated from an unlocking position to a locking position and mounted on the sump **100**.

To this end, a mounting protrusion **143** may be formed on an outer circumferential surface of the coarse filter **140**, and a mounting groove **105** may be formed in an inner side surface of the sidewall portion **103** of the sump **100**. When the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position, the mounting protrusion **143** may be inserted into the mounting groove **105** in a horizontal direction.

The mounting protrusion **143** may have an upward inclined surface **144**, which is inclined upward along a direction in which the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position. The mounting groove **105** may have a downward inclined surface **106**, which is inclined along a direction in which the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position.

Due to the above-described structure, when the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position, the coarse filter **140** may move downward while the upward inclined surface **144** of the mounting protrusion **143** is sliding on the downward inclined surface **106** of the mounting groove **105**.

When the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position, the coarse filter **140** may

apply pressure to the micro filter **130** downward while moving downward. To this end, the coarse filter **140** may have a downward pressure surface **145** that is horizontally formed to apply pressure to the micro filter **130** downward. The micro filter **130** may have a downward corresponding surface **137** that is horizontally formed (e.g., on a portion of the upper frame **132**) and to which pressure is applied by the downward pressure surface **145**.

Thus, when the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position, the coarse filter **140** applies pressure to the micro filter **130** downward, thereby reinforcing sealing between the lower frame **133** of the micro filter **130** and the bottom portion **101** of the sump **100** and preventing the micro filter **130** from coming off.

Furthermore, the coarse filter **140** may have a lateral pressure surface **146**, which is formed by expanding a portion of the outer circumferential surface of the coarse filter **140** outward from a radial direction. When the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position, the lateral pressure surface **146** may apply pressure to the micro filter **130** sideward. That is, the coarse filter **140** may have a swelling shape or an elliptical shape.

The micro filter **130** may have a lateral corresponding surface **138** to which pressure is applied by the lateral pressure surface **146** sideward. For example, lateral corresponding surface **138** may be disposed as or correspond to an inner wall of the upper frame **132** which forms through hole **139**.

Due to the above-described structure, when the coarse filter **140** rotates from the unlocking position to the locking position, pressure is applied to the micro filter **130** sideward, thereby further reinforcing sealing between the side frame **135** of the micro filter **130** and the sidewall portion **130** of the sump **100**.

Meanwhile, as shown in FIG. **47**, the coarse filter **140** may be disposed to lean toward one of the both sidewalls **33** and **34** of the wash tank **30**. For example, the coarse filter **140** may be disposed closer to the left wall **33** than to the right wall **34**. Alternatively, the coarse filter **140** may be disposed closer to the right wall **34** than to the left wall **33**. Also, the coarse filter **140** may additionally, or alternatively, be disposed closer to the rear wall **32** than to the door, or vice versa. By disposing the coarse filter **140**, the coarse filter **140** may not be interfered with the rail **440** but may be easily separated.

FIG. **48** is a perspective view of a distribution device in accordance with a second embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. **49** is a plan view illustrating operations of the distribution device of FIG. **48**.

A distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. **48** and **49**. The same reference numerals are used to denote the same elements, and descriptions for elements or features which have previously been described may be omitted.

A distribution device **700** may distribute wash water pumped by the circulation pump (refer to **51** in FIG. **3**) into upper rotation nozzles (refer to **311** and **312** in FIG. **3**), a lower left fixing nozzle **330**, and a lower right fixing nozzle **340**.

The distribution device **700** may include a roughly cylindrical housing **710**, an opening/closing member **720** rotatably disposed or placed within the housing **710**, and a motor **730** configured to generate rotary power to rotate the opening/closing member **720**.

A plurality of outlets **711**, **712**, and **713** may be formed in any one of a top surface or bottom surface of the housing **710**, that is, in an axial direction of the housing **710**. The

plurality of outlets **711**, **712**, and **713** may include a first outlet **711**, a second outlet **712**, and a third outlet **713**. The first outlet **711**, the second outlet **712**, and the third outlet **713** may be arranged in a radial direction.

The first outlet **711** may be connected to a first hose **741** and supply wash water to the upper rotation nozzles **311** and **312**. The second outlet **712** may be connected to the second hose **742** and supply wash water to the lower left fixing nozzle **330**. The third outlet **713** may be connected to the third hose **743** and supply wash water to the lower right fixing nozzle **340**.

An inlet **719** may be formed in a circumferential surface of the housing **710**. An inlet hose **749** to which the circulation pump **51** is connected may be connected to the inlet **719**.

The opening/closing member **720** may have a roughly disk shape. The opening/closing member **720** may be closely adhered to the top surface of the housing **710** in which the outlets **711**, **712**, and **713** are formed. The outlets **711**, **712**, and **713** may be turned on and off by rotating the opening/closing member **720**. The opening/closing member **720** may rotate about an axial direction of the housing **710**.

To this end, the opening/closing member **720** may include a first communication hole **721**, second communication holes **722a** and **722b**, and third communication holes **723a** and **723b** respectively corresponding to the first outlet **711**, the second outlet **712**, and the third outlet **713**. For example, third outlet **713** may be disposed closest to the center of the top surface of the opening/closing member **720**, first outlet **711** may be disposed the farthest from the center of the top surface of the opening/closing member **720**, and the second outlet **712** may be disposed between the first outlet **711** and the third outlet **713**. However, the disclosure is not so limited and the outlets may be differently arranged. Also, as shown in FIG. **48**, the outlets are aligned in a radial direction. However, alternatively, some or all of the outlets may be disposed such that the outlets are not all aligned in a same radial direction. Also, each of the outlets may have the same or may have different diameters.

Accordingly, when the opening/closing member **720** rotates and stops at a position in which a communication hole and an outlet face each other, the corresponding outlet is opened.

Referring to FIG. **49**, since the first communication hole **721** of the opening/closing member **720** is in a position corresponding to the first outlet **711** of the housing **710** in a state shown in FIG. **49**, the first outlet **711** is opened, and wash water may be supplied to the upper rotation nozzles **311** and **312**.

In this state, when the opening/closing member **720** rotates by a predetermined angle in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction (e.g., about 90° clockwise), the second communication hole **722b** of the opening/closing member **720** is in a position corresponding to the second outlet **712** of the housing **710**. Thus, the second outlet **712** is opened, and wash water may be supplied to the lower left fixing nozzle **330**.

In this state, when the opening/closing member **720** further rotates by a predetermined angle in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction (e.g., about 90° clockwise), the second communication hole **722a** and the third communication hole **723b** of the opening/closing member **720** are respectively in positions corresponding to the second outlet **712** and the third outlet **713** of the housing **710**. Thus, the second outlet **712** and the third outlet **713** are opened so that wash water may be supplied to the lower left fixing nozzle **330** and the right lower fixing nozzle **340**.

In this state, when the opening/closing member **720** further rotates by a predetermined angle in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction (e.g., about 90° clockwise), the third communication hole **723a** of the opening/closing member **720** is in a position corresponding to the third outlet **713** of the housing **710**. Thus, the third outlet **713** is opened so that wash water may be supplied to the lower right fixing nozzle **340**. As would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, degrees of rotation of the opening/closing member **720** may vary, and may depend on the number of states or distribution combinations, number of outlets, etc.

As described above, the distribution device in accordance with example embodiments disclosed herein may be structured such that outlets are formed in a circumferential surface of a housing, that is, in a radial direction of the housing, while the distribution device in accordance with the embodiment as discussed above with respect to FIGS. **48** and **49** may be structured such that outlets are formed in a top surface or bottom surface of a housing, that is, in an axial direction.

Reference numeral **731** denotes a rotation axis of the motor **730**. For example, the rotation axis **731** of the motor **730** may correspond to a center of the top surface of the housing **710** and/or opening/closing member **720**.

FIG. **50** is a perspective view of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. **51** is a plan view illustrating operations of the distribution device of FIG. **50**. FIG. **52** is a side view illustrating operations of the distribution device of FIG. **50**. FIG. **53** is a perspective view of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.

A distribution device in accordance with the disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. **50** through **52**. The same reference numerals are used to denote the same elements, and descriptions for elements or features which have previously been described may be omitted.

A distribution device **750** distributes wash water pumped by the circulation pump (refer to **51** in FIG. **3**) into the upper rotation nozzles (refer to **311** and **312** in FIG. **3**), the lower left fixing nozzle **330**, and the lower right fixing nozzle **340**.

The distribution device **750** may include a roughly cylindrical housing **760**, an opening/closing member **770** rotatably disposed or placed within the housing **760**, and a motor **780** configured to generate rotary power to rotate the opening/closing member **770**. Reference numeral **781** denotes a rotation axis of the motor **780**. For example, the rotation axis **781** of the motor **780** may correspond to a center of the top surface of the housing **760** and/or opening/closing member **770**.

A first outlet **761** may be formed in any one **760a** of a top surface or a bottom surface of the housing **760**, that is, in an axial direction of the housing **760**, and a second outlet **762** and a third outlet **763** may be formed in a circumferential surface **760b** of the housing **760**, that is, in a radial direction of the housing **760**. The first outlet **761** may be an axial outlet, and the second outlet **762** and the third outlet **763** may be radial outlets.

The first outlet **761** may be connected to a first hose **791** and supply wash water to the upper rotation nozzles **311** and **312**. The second outlet **762** may be connected to the second hose **792** and supply wash water to the lower left fixing nozzle **330**. The third outlet **763** may be connected to the third hose **793** and supply wash water to the lower right fixing nozzle **340**. As shown in FIG. **50**, second outlet **762** and third outlet **763** may be vertically arranged with respect to one another such that they are aligned vertically in an axial direction. However, the disclosure is not so limited and

the second outlet **762** and third outlet **763** may be vertically arranged with respect to one another such that they are not aligned vertically in an axial direction and are disposed at different positions of the circumferential surface **760b** in the circumferential direction.

An inlet **769** may be formed in the circumferential surface of the housing **760**. An inlet hose **799** to which the circulation pump **51** is connected may be connected to the inlet **769**.

The opening/closing member **770** may have a roughly cylindrical shape like the housing **760**. The opening/closing member **770** may include an axial opening/closing unit **770a** configured to open and close the first outlet **761**, which is the axial outlet, and a radial opening/closing unit **770b** configured to open and close the second and third outlets **762** and **763**, which are radial outlets. The axial opening/closing unit **770a** and the radial opening/closing unit **770b** may be disposed vertical to each other and integrated. The opening/closing member **770** rotates about an axial direction of the housing **760**.

The axial opening/closing unit **770a** may have a first communication hole **771** corresponding to the first outlet **761**. The radial opening/closing unit **770b** may have second communication holes **772a** and **772b** and third communication holes **773a** and **773b** respectively corresponding to the second outlet **762** and the third outlet **763**.

Accordingly, when the opening/closing member **770** rotates and stops at a position in which a communication hole and an outlet face each other, the corresponding outlet is opened.

As described above, example embodiments describe a structure in which outlets are formed in a radial direction of a housing, and example embodiments describe a structure in which outlets are formed in an axial direction of a housing. By comparison, the example embodiments shown in FIGS. **50** to **52** disclose a structure in which outlets are formed both in a radial direction of a housing and in an axial direction thereof.

Because outlets may be formed in both the radial direction and axial direction of the housing, a larger number of outlets may be disposed or placed compared to embodiments in which outlets are only disposed in an axial direction or only in a radial direction of the housing. Thus, even if a larger number of spray nozzles are disposed or placed, wash water may be distributed, and a larger number of combinations of distribution may be made.

As an example, as shown in FIG. **53**, a distribution device **800** may have a housing **810** and an opening/closing member **820** rotatably disposed or placed within the housing **810**, and the housing **810** may have a first outlet **811**, a second outlet **812**, and a third outlet **813** formed in an axial direction, and a fourth outlet **814**, a fifth outlet **815**, and a sixth outlet **816** formed in a radial direction.

As shown, the first to third outlets **811**, **812**, and **813**, which are axial outlets, may be arranged in the radial direction, and the fourth to sixth outlets **814**, **815**, and **816**, which are radial outlets, may be arranged in the axial direction. Thus, the outlets **811**, **812**, **813**, **814**, **815**, and **816** may be opened and closed independent of one another. Accordingly, various combinations of distribution may be made. As shown in FIG. **53**, outlets **814**, **815**, and **816** may be vertically arranged with respect to one another such that they are aligned vertically in an axial direction. However, the disclosure is not so limited and the outlets **814**, **815**, and **816** may be vertically arranged with respect to one another such that they are not aligned vertically in an axial direction and are disposed at different positions of the circumferential

surface in the circumferential direction of the housing **810** and/or opening/closing member **820**. Likewise, outlets **811**, **812**, and **813** may be horizontally arranged with respect to one another such that they are aligned horizontally in a radial direction. However, the disclosure is not so limited and the outlets **811**, **812**, and **813** may be horizontally arranged with respect to one another such that they are not aligned horizontally in a radial direction and are disposed at different positions of the top surface in the radial direction of the housing **810** and/or opening/closing member **820**.

The outlets **811**, **812**, **813**, **814**, **815**, and **816** may be respectively connected to hoses **841**, **842**, **843**, **844**, **845**, and **846** and supply wash water to separate spray nozzles (not shown). The distribution device **800** may distribute wash water to a larger number of spray nozzles. Communication holes (not shown) may be disposed or placed on the top surface and/or circumferential surface of the housing **810** and/or opening/closing member **820** as appropriate according to the number of outlets and/or desired number of distribution modes and combinations.

Reference numeral **831** denotes a rotation axis of a motor (not shown), **819** denotes an inlet, and **849** denotes an inlet hose. The motor of the distribution device **800** may be disposed or placed in a manner similar to the example embodiments disclosed herein.

FIG. **54** is a conceptual diagram of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. **55** is a conceptual diagram of a distribution device in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.

Distribution devices will be described with reference to FIGS. **54** and **55**. The same reference numerals are used to denote the same elements, and descriptions of elements or features which have been previously described may be omitted.

A distribution device **850** may include a distribution body **860**, an inflow path **879**, outflow paths **871**, **872**, **873**, and **874**, and distribution valves **891**, **892**, **893**, and **894** respectively disposed or placed at the outflow paths **871**, **872**, **873**, and **874** to open and close the outflow paths **871**, **872**, **873**, and **874**.

Here, each of the distribution valves **891**, **892**, **893**, and **894** may be a typical opening/closing valve that has an independent driving source and operates independently. As an example, each of the distribution valves **891**, **892**, **893**, and **894** may be a solenoid valve using electromagnetic force of a coil, a ball valve, or a butterfly valve.

The distribution device **850** may easily make various combinations of distribution by using independent opening/closing operations of the distribution valves **891**, **892**, **893**, and **894**.

Meanwhile, a distribution device may be configured or arranged by combining a distribution device having a rotatable opening/closing member with distribution valves that operate independently.

As shown in FIG. **55**, a distribution device **900** may include a housing **910** having a plurality of outlets **911**, **912**, **913**, and **914**, an opening/closing member **920** rotatably disposed or placed within the housing **910** to open and close the outlets **911**, **912**, **913**, and **914**, an inflow path **939**, outflow paths **931**, **932**, **933**, and **934** connected to the outlets **911**, **912**, **913**, and **914**, and distribution valves **941** and **944** disposed or placed on the outflow paths **931** and **934** to open and close the outflow paths **931** and **934**.

The opening/closing member **920** may have communication holes **921**, **922**, **923**, and **924** that rotate about an axial direction of the housing **910** and correspond to the outlets **911**, **912**, **913**, and **914**.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, outlets may be formed in a radial direction of the housing **910**, but the disclosure is not limited thereto and outlets may be formed in an axial direction of the housing **910**.

In accordance with an aspect of the disclosure, the distribution valves **941** and **944** may be disposed or placed only on the outflow paths **931** and **934**. However, distribution valves may be naturally disposed or placed in other outflow paths. For example, only one path or more than two paths may include distribution valves, and the example embodiment of FIG. **55** is merely an example. Each of the distribution valves **941** and **944** may be a typical opening/closing valve that has an independent driving source and operates independently.

FIG. **56** is a conceptual diagram of a wash water distribution system in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.

Referring to FIG. **56**, a dish washing machine may have a wash water distribution system capable of controlling a large number of spray nozzles. As an example, the distribution system **950** may include a pump **51** configured to pump wash water, a plurality of spray nozzles **960**, a distribution flow path **970** having a plurality of branch points and configured to connect the pump **51** with the plurality of spray nozzles **960** to supply wash water to the plurality of spray nozzles **960**, and a plurality of distribution devices **980** disposed or placed in the plurality of branch points to distribute wash water.

A dish washing machine may adopt the above-described distribution system when the dish washing machine has a large number of spray nozzles, which may not be covered or supportable by a single distribution device among the distribution devices in accordance with the previous embodiments, or the dish washing machine may need various combinations of distribution modes or states.

The distribution system does not have a distribution flow path having only one branch point and only one distribution device but may have a distribution flow path having a plurality of branch points and a plurality of distribution devices.

In this case, the distribution devices of the distribution system may include one or more of the various distribution devices as disclosed herein.

For example, the distribution device may be any one or more of a distribution device having a rotatable opening/closing member in which an outlet is formed in a radial direction, a distribution device having a rotatable opening/closing member in which an outlet is formed in an axial direction, a distribution device having a rotatable opening/closing member in which outlets are formed both in a radial direction and an axial direction, a distribution device having an opening/closing valve that has an independent driving source and operates independently, and/or a distribution device in which a rotatable opening/closing member is combined with an opening/closing valve.

As is apparent from the above description, a dish washing machine having a linear spray structure in accordance with the disclosure may efficiently circulate wash water and increase spatial availability.

Also, only a partial region of a wash tank may be dividedly washed by supplying wash water only to some fixing nozzles from among a plurality of fixing nozzles.

Furthermore, wash water may be supplied to a large number of spray nozzles, and a wide variety of combinations of distribution may be embodied and obtained.

The dish washer and operation thereof according to the above-described example embodiments may use one or

more processors. For example, a processing device may be implemented using one or more general-purpose or special purpose computers, and may include, for example, one or more of a processor, a controller and an arithmetic logic unit, a central processing unit (CPU), a graphics processing unit (GPU), a digital signal processor (DSP), an image processor, a microcomputer, a field programmable array, a programmable logic unit, an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a microprocessor or any other device capable of responding to and executing instructions in a defined manner.

Although example embodiments of the disclosure have been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made to these embodiments without departing from the principles and spirit of the disclosure, the scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A dish washing machine comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of spray nozzles configured to spray wash water; and

a distribution device to distribute the wash water into the plurality of spray nozzles, the distribution device including:

a cylindrical housing having an inlet formed in one axial end portion of the cylindrical housing and a plurality of outlets that are disposed in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing in an axial direction and connected to one or more of the plurality of spray nozzles,

an opening/closing member rotatably disposed within the cylindrical housing to open and close one or more of the plurality of outlets, and

a motor configured to rotate the opening/closing member and disposed at a side of the opening/closing member,

wherein the opening/closing member includes a rotation body having a cylindrical shape and the rotation body includes a plurality of communication holes formed in a circumferential surface of the rotation body to correspond to the plurality of outlets.

2. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of outlets are independently opened and closed according to rotation of the opening/closing member.

3. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, wherein the opening/closing member further includes plurality of sealing members combined with the rotation body to close the plurality of outlets.

4. The dish washing machine according to claim 3, wherein the sealing member is combined with the rotation body to be moveable in a radial direction of the rotation body.

5. The dish washing machine according to claim 3, wherein the sealing member moves between an open position in which the sealing member is closely adhered to the rotation body and a closed position in which the sealing member is closely adhered to the outlet.

6. The dish washing machine according to claim 5, wherein the sealing member moves from the open position to the closed position due to pressure of the wash water.

7. The dish washing machine according to claim 3, wherein the sealing member comprises a sealing unit having a curved shape and a coupling protrusion that protrudes from the sealing unit to be combined with the rotation body.

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8. The dish washing machine according to claim 7, wherein the rotation body comprises a clasp hole into which the coupling protrusion is inserted.

9. The dish washing machine according to claim 7, wherein the coupling protrusion includes a stopper unit that protrudes to prevent the sealing member from being detached from the rotation body.

10. The dish washing machine according to claim 3, wherein an outer circumferential surface of the rotation body is spaced a predetermined distance from an inner circumferential surface of the housing.

11. The dish washing machine according to claim 10, wherein the rotation body includes a spacing protrusion that protrudes in a radial direction to maintain the distance between the outer circumferential surface of the rotation body and the inner circumferential surface of the housing.

12. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, wherein the distribution device further comprises a cam member combined with the opening/closing member and the motor to rotate along with the opening/closing member, and a micro switch contacted by the cam member to detect a rotation position of the opening/closing member.

13. The dish washing machine according to claim 12, wherein the cam member includes convex units and concave units alternately formed in a circumferential direction such that the micro switch is turned on and off according to the rotation of the cam member.

14. The dish washing machine according to claim 13, wherein the distribution device further comprises a controller that designates rotation positions of the opening/closing member according to time points at which the micro switch is turned on and off, and rotates the motor or stops the rotation of the motor such that the opening/closing member rotates to a required rotation position among the rotation positions.

15. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, further comprising a wash tank disposed within the main body,

wherein the plurality of spray nozzles comprise at least one fixing nozzle fixed at one side of the wash tank, and at least one rotation nozzle configured to rotate due to water pressure.

16. The dish washing machine according to claim 15, wherein the at least one fixing nozzle is disposed adjacent to a rear wall of the wash tank,

the inlet is disposed to face toward one sidewall of the main body, and

the plurality of outlets are disposed to face toward a rear wall of the main body.

17. A dish washing machine comprising:

a main body;

a wash tank disposed within the main body;

a plurality of fixing nozzles fixed at a first side of the wash tank to spray wash water, the plurality of fixing nozzles including a left fixing nozzle disposed on a left portion of the first side of the wash tank, and a right fixing nozzle disposed on a right portion of the first side of the wash tank;

a vane configured to move within the wash tank and reflect the wash water sprayed from the plurality of fixing nozzles; and

a distribution device configured to selectively distribute the wash water into all or some of the plurality of fixing nozzles such that the wash water is selectively sprayed to an entire region or a partial region of the wash tank, the distribution device including:

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a cylindrical housing having an inlet formed in one axial end portion of the cylindrical housing,

a plurality of outlets disposed in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing and aligned with one another in an axial direction of the cylindrical housing, the plurality of outlets including a first outlet connected to the left fixing nozzle and a second outlet connected to the right fixing nozzle, and

the first outlet is disposed nearer to the left fixing nozzle than to the right fixing nozzle, and the second outlet is disposed nearer to the right fixing nozzle than to the left fixing nozzle.

18. The dish washing machine according to claim 17, wherein the wash tank is divided into first and second regions,

the distribution device is configured to wash the first and second regions of the wash tank independently by distributing the wash water to only the left fixing nozzle via only the first outlet, and by distributing the wash water to only the right fixing nozzle via only the second outlet, and

the distribution device is configured to wash the first and second regions of the wash tank at a same time by distributing the wash water to both the left fixing nozzle and the right fixing nozzle via the first outlet and the second outlet, respectively.

19. The dish washing machine according to claim 17, wherein the plurality of fixing nozzles are disposed adjacent to a rear wall of the main body.

20. The dish washing machine according to claim 17, wherein the distribution device further includes:

an opening/closing member rotatably disposed within the housing to open and close the plurality of outlets; and a motor to rotate the opening/closing member, and the plurality of outlets are aligned along the circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing in the axial direction, the axial direction being parallel to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical housing.

21. The dish washing machine according to claim 20, wherein the inlet is disposed to face toward one sidewall of the main body, and the plurality of outlets are disposed to face toward a rear wall of the main body.

22. The dish washing machine according to claim 20, wherein the opening/closing member comprises a rotation body having a cylindrical shape and including a plurality of communication holes corresponding to the plurality of outlets, and a plurality of sealing members combined with the rotation body to close the plurality of outlets.

23. The dish washing machine according to claim 20, wherein the distribution device further comprises a cam member that is combined with the opening/closing member and rotates along with the opening/closing member, and a micro switch that is contacted by the cam member to detect a rotation position of the opening/closing member.

24. A dish washing machine comprising:

a main body;

a plurality of spray nozzles to spray wash water; and a distribution system to receive an inflow of wash water pumped by a pump and to distribute the received wash water into the plurality of spray nozzles,

wherein the distribution system comprises:

a distribution flow path to connect the pump with the plurality of spray nozzles and having a plurality of branch points; and

a plurality of distribution devices disposed at the plurality of branch points to distribute the wash water, the

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plurality of distribution devices including a first distribution device that includes:
 a cylindrical housing having an inlet formed in one axial end portion of the cylindrical housing and a plurality of outlets disposed in a circumferential surface of the cylindrical housing and aligned with one another in an axial direction of the cylindrical housing that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical housing, each of the plurality of outlets being connected to one or more of the plurality of spray nozzles, and
 an opening/closing member disposed within the housing which is rotatable about the axial direction of the housing, the opening/closing member configured to open and close at least some of the plurality of outlets,
 wherein the opening/closing member includes a rotation body having a cylindrical shape and the rotation body includes a plurality of communication holes formed in a circumferential surface of the rotation body to correspond to the plurality of outlets.

25. The dish washing machine according to claim 24, wherein the first distribution device further includes:
 a motor to generate rotary power to rotate the opening/closing member.

26. The dish washing machine according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of outlets are configured to discharge the wash water in a same radial direction which is perpendicular to the axial direction.

27. The dish washing machine according to claim 24, wherein the axial direction and longitudinal axis of the cylindrical housing are perpendicular to a vertical direction of the dishwasher.

28. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, the plurality of outlets are aligned with one another in an axial

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direction of the cylindrical housing that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical housing.

29. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
 a sump coupled to the distribution device and configured to store the wash water; and
 a pump configured to pump the wash water stored in the sump into the inlet of the cylindrical housing,
 wherein the wash water flows from the pump into the inlet in a direction substantially perpendicular to a vertical direction of the dish washing machine.

30. The dish washing machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
 a door; and
 a wash tank disposed within the main body, the wash tank including a front side having an opening that is opened and closed by the door, a rear side opposite the front side, a left side that connects the front side to the rear side, a right side opposite the left side that connects the front side to the rear side, an upper side, and a bottom side opposite the upper side,
 wherein
 the left side and the right side lie in a plane that is parallel to a vertical direction of the dish washing machine, and the inlet faces one of the left side and the right side.

31. The dish washing machine according to claim 30, wherein the cylindrical housing is elongated in a left to right direction that corresponds to the axial direction.

32. The dish washing machine according to claim 30, wherein the plurality of outlets are disposed to face toward the rear side and are configured to discharge the wash water in a direction toward the rear side.

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